

# Capital Journal

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## Capital Punishment

House Joint Resolution No. 11 introduced by Representatives Duncan, Howard, Lawman, Skelton and Willner and Senators Dimick, Lewis and Sweetland calls for a constitutional amendment abolishing capital punishment in Oregon, to be submitted to the people for approval or rejection at the next general election. It reads:

Section 37. The penalty for murder in the first degree shall be life imprisonment, except that if a person is convicted of murder in the first degree committed while under sentence of life imprisonment, he may be punished by death. Provided, however, that the existing laws and constitutional provisions relative to criminal prosecution shall be continued and remain in effect as to all crimes committed before the taking effect of this amendment.

Many times similar bills have been introduced in the legislature but failed to pass. In 1913 an initiative bill to amend the constitution by abolishing the death penalty was enacted by a vote of 100,552 to 100,395. It proved so unsatisfactory in accomplishing a decrease in murders, that an initiative amendment restoring capital punishment was adopted at a special election May 21, 1920 by a vote of 81,755 to 64,580.

The Oregonian, which advocates repeal of the death penalty, reprints at the request of a reader the following Oregonian editorial by the late Harvey Scott, many years its distinguished editor, printed May 6, 1904 on capital punishment. The correspondent said "trusting you take a more realistic view than Mr. Scott" wrote:

"Prompt trial and swift execution of the death penalty is the sharpest and best medicine to cure a cutthroat; the grave is a prison more frightful to the ordinary assassin than ever the living death of life imprisonment, whose cell is never so dark but is lighted by that ray of hope we call executive pardon. Shakespeare sketched, with truthful hands, the horror exercised on the average mind by the death penalty, when he wrote in Measure for Measure:

"The weariness and most loathed worldly life  
That age, ache, penury and imprisonment  
Can lay on nature is a paradise to what we fear of death."  
"Shakespeare sounded human nature deeply, on this as on all other subjects—more deeply than do those who affirm that, because the death penalty does not deter some men from murder, it does not deter any possible murderers from crime, and that, therefore, we would do well to dismantle the gallows."—Harvey W. Scott.

The Oregonian replied with an editorial too long for our space to reproduce in full, giving its "enlightened" view, holding that "prompt trial and swift execution of the death penalty is impossible in the courts of today and the deterrent value of 'capital punishment for murder is not sufficient to justify the indefensible act of executing the few who are convicted, but who in truth are not guilty' questions whether the penalty of death is deterrent at all, concluding:

In our opinion, the certainty of punishment would be a far greater deterrent than the nature of punishment—even for the crime of murder, in which the causes are so confusingly mixed. Thus, we believe that Oregon should abolish the death penalty for murder, but that it should provide by law that no convicted murderer should ever be paroled or pardoned, unless his innocence should later be proved. In short, the life imprisonment in Oregon means imprisonment for life.

If there has been any innocent man convicted and executed in Oregon in the past 70 years, there is no record of it in the Capital Journal files. Oregon juries are on the average sympathetic and give the accused the benefit of any possible doubt. A life sentence frequently means as little as seven years and the accused know it.

In 1953 there were 7,120 murders and negligible homicides in the nation, in 1954, the total was 6850, the same in 1955.

Only six states ban capital punishment, Michigan, Maine, Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin and Rhode Island. Whether there has been a decrease in murders as a consequence is not revealed in statistics available.

One thing seems certain, capital punishment either by hanging, gas chamber or firing squad, is not an incentive to murder—it is abolition would be to gangsters, hoodlums and racketeers.—G. P.

## Airport Loss Really a Gain

Rep. Walter Norblad announces from Washington that the Air Force has abandoned plans to build a \$40 million base at Woodburn. He states that Air Force Secretary Donald A. Quarles informed him the Woodburn base was called off in favor of a tentative plan to spend \$5 million to improve facilities at the Portland airport.

Norblad said Quarles told him it was possible the Air Force might reconsider Woodburn again later, but for the present it felt Portland would be "adequate" with some improvements.

Norblad said he was informed the decision was in line with an Air Force policy not to build new bases. He said Quarles cited the cancellation of proposed bases at Kalkaska, Mich., and near Pittsburgh, Pa., as other examples of this policy.

The Navy's plans are not known. It had previously called off plans for a training facility at Hillsboro in favor of joining with the air force in its Woodburn plans.

Perhaps the abandonment at the Woodburn base is due to a belated effort to economize government expenditures. There never has been any enthusiasm over the proposal. While it meant the expenditure of a lot of money in the valley, a big airport is about the biggest nuisance possible to the people in the area.

The Woodburn airport would have removed from utilization a large section of the valley's best farming land, a much bigger long range asset. Boom prosperity has a demoralizing reaction on any community as proven by the wartime plants after emergency passes.—G. P.

## Good Salesmanship

If the City of Salem doesn't draw some very good bids for the \$3,750,000 bond offering to finance the new water supply line it won't be for lack of good salesmanship.

This isn't said lightly. Never, as far as can be remembered, has a call for bids been accompanied by so much information for buyers and brokers about Salem as a source of gilt-edged securities. It is all embodied in a 23-page prospectus that has been mailed to 325 prospective buyers.

To begin with, a map is shown of the proposed 18-mile transmission line. There is general information about Salem's geographical location, its growth from 1900 through 1956 and its growth potential, its industry, banking, cultural and social facilities, and its city government.

## RAY TUCKER

### Administration Has Handled Trouble-Maker Stassen Well

Every Saturday, Ray Tucker answers readers' questions of general interest on national and international policies and personalities. Questions may be sent to him at 708 Hillcrest Place, Chevy Chase, Md.

WASHINGTON—"Can you explain to me," explodes R. F. of Los Angeles, along with many other readers, "why President Eisenhower doesn't get rid of this trouble-making fellow, Harold Stassen?" He tussled up Republican affairs with his silly attempt to dump Vice President Nixon, and now he regards the V. P. as a weak figure, even though he is apparently grooming him for the 1960 Presidential nomination!"

Answer: I think that President Eisenhower and the anti-Stassen Republican political leaders have handled Harold rather well. For one thing, in view of his trouble-making capacity, they may consider it smart to keep him where they can have their eyes on him. If he really wanted to crack down, the Minnesota would cut out of his hand.

Ignoring Stassen  
What the President has done, as well as two national chairmen—Leo Hall and Meade Alcorn—has been to pay no attention to him, and to quarantine him, politically. Ike's very reliance on Nixon for domestic and overseas assignments, as well as their increasingly close personal relationship, is bitter drink for Stassen.

Hall and Alcorn have both indicated that Stassen is a pain in the neck to party organization leaders. Hardly anyone wants him to speak in their states or districts during the 1956 campaign. This killing-with-kindness treatment irritates Stassen more than outright discharge would do.

He seeks to recoup prestige by hinting that he might run for Governor of Pennsylvania in 1958. But the busses there have shown no desire for his help in recapturing the state from the Democrats. It is doubtful he could be elected to the Legislature in his home state of Minnesota, where he still tries to rule as an absentee dictator.

President's Tolerance  
Ike's attitude toward Stassen permits discussion of another subject concerning which many readers have shown curiosity. It is the spirit of tolerance which the President exhibits toward Cabinet members in open disagreement with him, toward Pentagon officers who question his national defense policies before Congressional Committees, and of course, to political opponents who make personal attacks on him.

To Washington, and it seems, to the American people, the President's tolerant attitude is one of his principal virtues and assets. In fact, it is probably responsible for the fact that, save for the Russian and Chinese Communists, the peoples of the world regard him as a man of peace and good will. He can disagree with foes and friends without damning them. He can understand their viewpoint without agreeing with them.

Relief From Predecessors  
He is a refreshing relief from such irascible predecessors as F. D. R. and Truman, and even Woodrow Wilson. In domestic and foreign affairs, they might have achieved greater and more permanent success, if they had possessed Ike's feeling for a "live and let live" philosophy.

That Supreme Court Vacancy  
"Do you think the President will appoint Dewey, Dulles or Brown to the Supreme Court vacancy, resulting from Justice Reed's retirement?" asks G. L. of Boston.

Answer: No, Ike prefers a sitting Federal Judge or a prominent member of a State Supreme Court. None of the three you mention has had experience on the bench, or possesses a judicial temperament.

Dulles is too old. Dewey and Brown are too politically minded for the kind of Federal judiciary Ike seeks to create as an anti-Roosevelt and anti-Truman precedent for future chief executives.

Expanding Circle  
Grants Pass Courier  
This newspaper is in receipt of a notice from United States Senator Wayne Morse to the effect that he has introduced a bill which would provide that any person covered by Social Security, regardless of age, becomes eligible for regular retirement benefits immediately on becoming totally disabled.

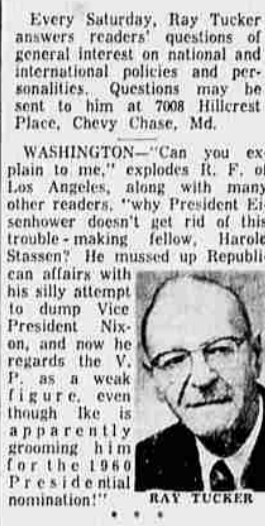
The whole social security program was based on the theory that an individual, during his employed years, be forced by the government to provide retirement for his old age—half at his own expense and half at the expense of his employer.

Only last year, the idea was expanded to include permanently disabled 50 years of age or older. Now, Senator Morse proposes to go whole hog on this disability business.

Of course, workers and their employers will be forced to pay higher premiums to finance this expanded Federal welfare program.

It probably will not be long until the Social Security system will be loaded with health insurance. There is no more reason to provide old-age benefits to disabled workers than there is to care for victims of major illnesses which prevent the worker from being gainfully employed.

Finally, it will be a handy system into which to tack prepaid hospital insurance.



RAY TUCKER

## Ships That Never Come In



## DAVID LAWRENCE

### Congress May Have Pulled a Boner on Mid-East Passage

WASHINGTON—Maybe the Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees pulled an unintentional boner. They wanted to "water down" the resolution about the use of troops in the Middle East. Instead, they not only strengthened it but probably went further on the road to war than has any other resolution ever passed by congress in advance of hostilities.

The resolution, as adopted recently by the House of Representatives, stated merely that the President is "authorized to undertake military assistance programs" in the Middle East and is "authorized to employ the armed forces of the United States as he deems necessary."

But the resolution adopted by a 20-0 vote of the two combined Senate committees says "The United States is prepared to use" its armed forces to assist any Middle East nation threatened by International Communism, "if the President deems it necessary."

Phrasing Permissive  
The first phrasing—by the House of Representatives—is simply permissive. The resolution by the Senate committees is much more of a threat. It is an announcement of a decision by Congress declaring that the executive can take such action as he deems necessary. It says "The United States" is prepared to use its armed forces. The words—"The United States"—mean both the Executive and Congress, acting together. It sounds more like an old-fashioned ultimatum.

The difference in the wording arose from a variety of motives. Some Democrats dislike the idea of being asked to delegate the power to act and Congress need only affirm in advance that he has it. Still others want to pass the buck, preferring to wait to see how it all comes out. If the use of force proves unpopular, they think they can shift the blame and say Congress didn't authorize it and that the President must take the responsibility.

The Republicans voted for the resolution just to get it out of the committees and to expedite action. The wording of the resolution will be ironed out anyway in conference between the two houses, and one suspects that it is the Senate's resolution that will be "watered down" to square with the language of "authorization" granted by the House.

Proceedings Hectic  
The proceedings of the Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees have been hectic and confusing. Plenty of Partisan bitterness, which never should prevail in handling delicate matters of foreign policy, seems to have cropped up. One glaring example of it was the refusal of the committees to allow publication until now of the text of the answer made by Secretary of State Dulles before the committees in executive session more than two weeks ago when he replied to the charge that he was reflecting on British and French troops. The original comment by him occurred at a committee hearing on January 25, when, in answering a question about allied action, he said he thought it would be better not to have French and British troops alongside American troops "as things are today," but he added, "I hope they change."

Reflections on War  
This was widely misunderstood in the press abroad as a reflection on the valor of the British and French troops. A press officer at

## BEN MAXWELL

### Mrs. Wyatt Gained Pie Title in '28

Feb. 16, 1928  
Southern Pacific had rejected the request of Woodburn Garden club to beautify the parking along S. P.'s right-of-way with shrubbery.

Superintendent King had explained that in the past those interested in such projects either moved away or lost interest and that S. P. found itself with parks and flowers to care for.

Principals of Salem schools, in a reply to a questionnaire from Supt. Geo. W. Hug, had said that local teachers were not subjected to Blue Law suppression but led particularly free private lives with practically no interference from the school board or the superintendent.

Salem teachers' council had said that local school teachers did not consider the present time ripe for an active campaign in behalf of increased salaries but suggested that any such movement initiated either by the superintendent or the school board would have their whole-hearted support.

Capital Journal's pie and cake baking contest had attracted 235 cake and 126 pie entries. Mrs. Robert Wyatt, 1960 South Church St., had won the distinction of being "best cake baker in Salem."

Center Billingsley Motor Co., 333 Alfred St., had advertised the perfected Whipper coach for \$335—never before such beauty and quality for so little money. "This Willis-Overland car was manufactured between 1927 and 1931. Whipper car was introduced as 'America's first light car of standard dimensions' and featured finger-tip control."

Worth's department store, 177 North Liberty St., on this day 29 years ago advertised 150 new spring hats for women—close fitting, wood violet, rose, beige, cupid pink and starflower in large and small head sizes.

Quick Reading  
There are two ways of being happy. We may either diminish our wants, or augment our wants; either will do. The result is the same; and it is for each one to decide for himself, and do that which happens to be the easier.

Quick Reading  
If you are idle, or sick, or poor, however hard it may be to diminish your wants, it will be harder to augment your means.

Among the questions asked in the examination of an applicant for a place on the police force was this one: "What would you do to disperse a crowd quickly and quietly?"

The answer: "I'd pass the hat." —Ottawa Journal.

They're Human Too  
OF TROUBLE in the royal family we doubt if being royal keeps them from being human. Sheridan County Journal.

## REV. GEORGE SWIFT

### Many Religious Rites Have Been Observed in The Hills

A walk up 94 steps to a little chapel situated in the attic of a building on the Willamette campus to give Holy Communion to a group of devout college students at 7:00 A.M. one morning this week, reminded me of the many instances recorded in the Scriptures of religious rites being observed on hills, mountains or other high places.

"Will Lift Mine Eyes"  
The Psalmist says, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help." From Genesis to Revelation there are over 300 references to mountains or other high places being used for worship, offering of sacrifices, or as places from which God spoke to His chosen people.

"Salt of The Earth"  
"Ye are the salt of the earth, but if the salt hath lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is henceforth good for nothing but to be cast out." In other words, you may indeed be God's elect, the salt of the earth; what of it, if you have lost your zeal, your ambition, your usefulness in God's service, you are then good for nothing, but to be cast out.

## JAMES MARLOW

### American Commies Follow Moscow Line in New Shifts

Associated Press News Analyst  
WASHINGTON (AP)—The first question that can be fairly put to the newly reorganized American Communist party is: Whom do you think you're kidding?

All the party did at its New York convention this week was to rearrange the furniture to make itself look like a native, national American party, concerned only with American welfare and no longer a Russian agent.

That's exactly what Moscow a year ago told Western Communist parties to do. The reason was simple: everywhere they had run into stone walls and their membership was dwindling.

If they could change their front they might be able to work with, and intrude, other groups—like labor, Socialists, liberals—which would have nothing to do with them so long as they were plainly Moscow errand boys.

Fellow New Line  
Thus at the very moment of declaring itself its own man at last, the American party was following the new Russian post-Stalin line just as slavishly as it had followed Stalin while he was alive.

The Russians—after seeing what a little taste of independence had done among Polish and Hungarian Communists who had taken Moscow's advice too literally—did not want other parties to go too far.

The American Communist party didn't go too far. Since Russia's bloody intrusion in Hungary, the party's newspaper, the Daily Worker, under the editorship of John Gates, had been critical of Moscow.

Party Leadership Same  
And Gates barely got himself elected to the new 11-man administrative committee which will now boss the party. The party leadership, despite some rearranging, remains the same.

Under them the party had reached the edge of disaster, suffering tremendous membership losses and finding itself isolated from all other groups in American life.

As a sop to the dissatisfied, Foster and Dennis were stripped of their titles but wound up on the administrative committee just the same. This is supposed to be a kind of collective leadership. That's what the Russians have. They set it up after Stalin's death.

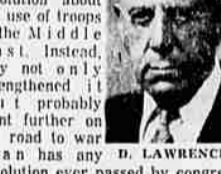
Small Intellectual Appeal  
In the past the American Communist party had attracted many intellectuals. It should have small appeal to intellectuals in the future if they have any morality.

The American party stands intellectually degraded to a degree almost unbelievable among thinking people. It had never questioned Stalin, either on his tactics, his interpretation or his murders until his successors in the Kremlin denounced him and revealed him.

Then the American Communists acted surprised. It had as one of them said at the convention, always considered that what the Russian party did was "ipso facto valid." This was a complete confession that the American Communist party had abdicated thinking.



JAMES MARLOW



DAVID LAWRENCE



BEN MAXWELL

## Age of Overbite?

Albany Democrat-Herald  
TV haters have seen many dangers in worship of the mighty gods. Their heads tilted back like kids will turn into idiotic delinquents, their heads filled with dogs that jump and guns that kill 20 or 30 stars each night.

But our society editor, Ianthe Smith, brings up the question of TV teeth. In other words, malocclusion. A TV watcher who can take it or leave it, she isn't as much worried as curious.

Will little Matilda grow up with overbite because she lies on the floor to watch television and props her head up by resting her chin on her hands?

Miss Smith has inspected kids fanned out on the floor around the set, their heads tilted back like a curious turtle's, their elbows indented in the rug. The pressure on those teeth must be terrific. Do this for four or five hours a day for a few years the effect must be sprung jaw muscles or an Elmer Snerdsh overbite.

Maybe so, maybe not. We vaguely recall that back in the bad old days when kids had nothing to do except pester Ma and read books, they read in that position. And mighty few of them now can eat popcorn without first taking it from the bag.

**HOW CHRISTIAN SCIENCE HEALS**  
KSLM KLOR  
10:15 A.M. Channel 12  
Sunday 4:30 P.M.

Before you buy a car, check these costs carefully:  
1 FINANCING  
2 INSURANCE  
3 PURCHASE PRICE  
My Bank Plan may save you money three ways!

STATE FARM INSURANCE  
Howell-Edwards Funeral Home  
805 N. Capitol St.  
Phone EM 3-7921