



Offbeat Oregon History

Governor Martin's goons were dirty
but incompetent fighters

BY FINN J.D. JOHN
For the Sentinel

In August of 1937 when Stanley Doyle called on her, Gwendolyn Ramsey can't have been too happy to see him.

Doyle had been the key figure behind framing her husband, Ernest Doyle, and two of his fellow union leaders, for the murder of a ship's officer the year before. And although Doyle had been working undercover, chances are pretty good that she knew exactly who he was.

But what he wanted to see her about — that interested her a great deal. He was there to offer her a special deal: All she needed to do, he told her, was "sign a statement that Harry Bridges was a Communist and that she had seen him at Communist meetings."

"All you have to do is sign it," Doyle told her, "and your husband will be released from San Quentin."

Ramsey wasn't interested in perjuring herself to help Doyle take down Bridges, the controversial Australian-born labor-union leader whom the entire West Coast seemed to be trying to get deported. But she was very interested in how he proposed to get her husband released. Ernest Ramsey's conviction might have been a corrupt fraud, but a conviction was a conviction. So she played along a little, and asked him the question: How did he have the power to overturn a conviction and get Ernest sprung?

It was because, he told her, he was "a secret service agent for the Immigration Service and the governors of California and Oregon" — and he flashed a fancy gold badge that read, "SPECIAL AGENT — STATE OF OREGON — No. 280."

Stanley Doyle was essentially a personal undercover operative answering directly and personally to the governor of Oregon — the ramrod-straight, demonstrably paranoid, ferociously anti-communist Major General Charles H. Martin (USA-Ret.), Governor of Oregon.

And although there was widespread consensus among the governors of all three West Coast states as well as the executives of every major shipping company on the subject, it was Martin who seemed to most hate Harry Bridges. At the very least, it was he who devoted the most taxpayer resources to the decades-long fight to have him deported — a goal that would have gotten a lot easier if he could be identified as a "red."

Evidence today is pretty strong

that Bridges had been a member of the Communist Party at one time, probably in the early 1930s. But in 1937, that evidence wasn't yet known — but it was fervently wished for. And Stanley Doyle's mission was clear: Either find or fabricate that evidence.

It was a mission he went about with a clumsy subtlety that would have shocked anyone who didn't already know his methods. An attorney, he first came to the governor's attention in 1934 as the prosecutor in the case of a man named Dirk DeJonge, a newly enrolled Communist Party member who, a few years earlier, had been prosecuted for making an anti-police speech at a Portland rally. This, of course, was an activity protected under the First Amendment, but the judge found him guilty and sentenced him to prison for it anyway.

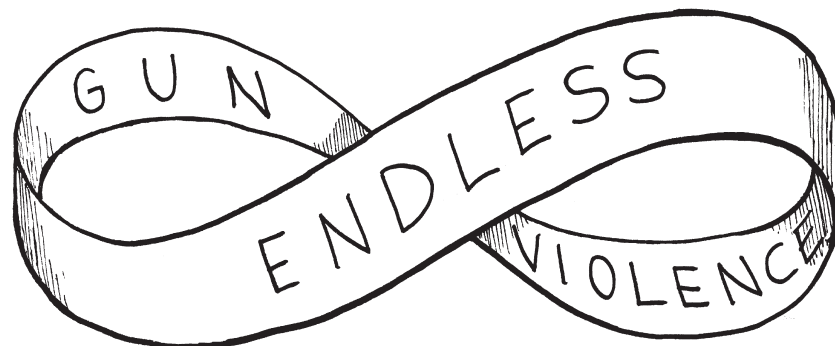
Along the way to that outcome, though, some rather startling things happened, all on the record and in open court. First, undercover State Police agent Laurence Milner, who had provided the key information in the case, sought to preserve his cover by testifying in court that he didn't know if DeJonge was a communist or not. Doyle, during a break in the case, tried to persuade him to change his mind and recant his testimony — basically, admitting to perjury — and when Milner refused, Doyle actually stated, in open court, that he had tried to get him to do so. So Milner had to get on the stand and perjure himself again to claim (with rather less believability this time) that he had not. Nonetheless, if any labor unionists ever trusted Milner again after that display, they surely deserved whatever they got as a result. His cover was effectively blown.

(As for DeJonge, his conviction was overturned by the Supreme Court two years later on grounds that throwing somebody into the cooler for making a speech was conduct unbecoming an American court of law.)

The following year, in his new role as "special agent," Doyle blew the lid off another laboriously constructed piece of anti-union James Bondery when he traveled to California to get heavy with a man named Charles Bancksy, a private undercover agent working for a San Francisco shipping company. Bancksy had a beach house in Carmel stocked with hidden cameras and microphones and with a secret fingerprint lab; he hosted parties in it, in which he essen-

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The Real LOOPhole



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Clarification — owner of home lost to fire sheds more light on its history

Last week, the Sentinel relayed news of the historic

nature of a home lost to fire on Hillside Drive on Dec. 28. On Friday, the owner of the home, which was built in 1865 and originally belonged to early area farmer Alex Cooley, called to correct a bit of misinformation regarding the house.

Sheila Barrong told the Sentinel that she wished to

correct the assertion that the home was owned by Alexander Cooley until he died in 1921 and was then purchased by Virgil D. White. White did own a home on Hillside Drive, Barrong said, though the home he owned was once owned by John Cooley and is located up the road a ways. Barrong

said she purchased the Alex Cooley house herself from Ruth DeLong in the 1950s. DeLong reportedly inherited the home from her father, a former minister here. The Sentinel thanks Barrong for the clarification and for helping illuminate one small piece of Cottage Grove's history.

Vitamin D, hormones and breast cancer

BY JOEL FUHRMAN, MD
For the Sentinel

New research suggests that Vitamin D could oppose estrogen's breast cancer-promoting effects. Published in the American Journal of Clinical

Nutrition, a study of over 57,000 postmenopausal women found that, among women who had ever used hormone therapy, those that were supplementing with vitamin D had a 26 percent reduced risk of breast cancer.

Vitamin D is known to have

cellular effects that oppose the development of cancer, such as promoting cell adhesion, inhibiting cancer cell proliferation and anti-inflammatory effects. A Cochrane meta-analysis published in 2014 concluded that supplementation with vitamin D3 was associated with a 12 percent lower risk of death from cancer.

There has been extensive research on vitamin D in relation to breast cancer risk. Some meta-analyses have shown significantly reduced breast cancer risk with higher blood vitamin D, whereas others have shown only a weak association. The protective effects of vitamin D appear to be quite strong in studies of

breast cancer patients. In a 2014 meta-analysis of six studies, higher vitamin D blood levels (above 29.1 ng/ml) were associated with a 42 percent reduction in the risk of death from breast cancer compared to lower levels (lower than 21 ng/ml). Another meta-analysis reported that breast cancer patients with low vitamin D levels had more than double the risk of recurrence of their cancer. Furthermore, studies that have shown that an inherited variation in the vitamin D receptor gene increases breast cancer risk.

We know Vitamin D has overall anti-cancer effects, but interestingly the new research suggests that vitamin D may oppose some effects of female hormones, making vitamin D especially helpful for breast cancer prevention. Experiments carried out in vitro suggest that the active form of vitamin D suppresses aromatase expression in

breast cancer cells, resulting in lower production of estrogen. Vitamin D also downregulated the estrogen receptor in breast cancer cells, making the cells less responsive to estrogen's cancer-promoting signals.

This research makes it even more important for women to get their blood vitamin D levels (25(OH)D) tested and supplemented to reach the sweet spot of 30-45 ng/ml. This favorable range has been suggested by much research on cancer, bone fractures and all-cause mortality. I recommend taking vitamin D3, the more potent form of the vitamin, the form the skin produces when it is exposed to sunlight. In my experience, 2000 IU is an appropriate dose to bring most people into the 30-45 ng/ml range.

However, there are always exceptions and for those whose blood results fall outside of this range taking more or less can be

indicated.

Of course, breast cancer protection involves more than Vitamin D. A nutritional diet has been designed to maximally protect against breast cancer, and exercise is important too.

Dr. Fuhrman is a #1 New York Times best-selling author and a family physician specializing in lifestyle and nutritional medicine. His newest book, The End of Dieting, debunks the fake "science" of popular fad diets and offers an alternative to dieting that leads to permanent weight loss and excellent health. Visit his informative website at DrFuhrman.com. Submit your questions and comments about this column directly to news-questions@drfuhrman.com. The full reference list for this article can be found at DrFuhrman.com.

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Personal attacks and name calling in response to letters are uncalled for and unnecessary.

If you would like to submit an opinion piece, Another View must be no longer than 600 words.

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