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## J. W. HILDENBRAND.

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of Coos County, Oregon  
Election November 7, 1944

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## Are We Headed Toward An Oligarchy In United States?

Bob Harrison of this city has apparently been making a pretty extensive study of the way in which statesmen of this nation in the past, and those of before and since the beginning of the Christian era, regarded the arising of dictators and those who would oppose the will of the people. In the following communication he makes no mention of names or conditions to which the past history of U. S. or the world does so aptly apply, but the inference is plain enough for anyone who can read.

He entitles his article, "In Opposition to a Corrupt Oligarchy—a speech delivered by Caius Memmius before an assembly of people in Rome, about 110 B. C., reported by Sallust and translated by John S. Watson," and the quotation and Mr. Harrison's comments are as follows:

"Were not my zeal for the good of the state, my fellow citizens, superior to every other feeling, there are many considerations which would deter me from appearing in your cause. I allude to the power of the opposite party, your own tameness of spirit, the absence of all justice and, above all, the fact that integrity is attended with more danger than honor.

"Indeed, it grieves me to relate how, during the last 15 years, you have been a sport to the arrogance of an oligarchy; how dishonorably, and how utterly unavenged, your defenders have perished; and how your spirit has become degenerate by sloth and indulgence; for not even now, when your enemies are in your power, will you rouse yourself to action, but continue still to stand in awe of those to whom you should be a terror. Yet, notwithstanding this state of things, I feel prompted to make an attack on the powers of that faction. That liberty of speech, therefore, which has been left me by my father, I shall assuredly exert against them; but whether I shall use it in vain, or for your advantage, must, my fellow citizens, depend upon yourselves. I do not, however, exhort you, as your ancestors have often done, to rise in arms against injustice. There is at present no need of violence, no need of secession; for your tyrants must work their own fall by their own misconduct. After the murder of Tiberius Gracchus, whom they accused of aspiring to be king, persecutions were instituted against the common people of Rome; and after the slaughter of Caius Gracchus and Marcus Fulvius, many of your order were put to death in prison. But let us leave these proceedings out of the question; let us admit that to restore their rights to the people, was to aspire to sovereignty; let us allow that what can not be avenged without shedding the blood of citizens, was done with justice. You have seen with silent indignation, however, in past years, the treasury pillaged; you have seen kings, and free men, paying tribute to a small party of Patricians, in whose hands were both the highest honors and the greatest wealth; but to have carried on such proceedings with such impunity, they now deem but a small matter; and, at last, your laws and your honor, with every civil and religious obligation, have been sacrificed for the benefit of your enemies.

"Nor do they, who have done these things, show either shame or contrition but parade proudly before your faces, displaying their sacerdotal dignities, their consulships, and some of them their triumphs, as if they regard them as marks of honor, and not as fruits of dishonesty. Slaves, purchased by money, will not submit to unjust commands from their masters; yet you, my fellow citizens, who are born to empire, tamely endure oppression. But who are these that have thus taken the government into their hands? Men of the most abandoned character, of blood-stained hands, of insatiable avarice, of enormous guilt, and of matchless pride; men by whom integrity, reputation, public spirit and, indeed everything, whether honorable or dishonorable, is converted to a means of gain. Some of them make it their defense that they have killed tribunes of the people; others, that they had shed your blood; and thus, the more atrocities each has committed, the greater is his security; while your oppressors, whom the same desires, the same aversions, and the same fears, combine in strict union (a union which among good men is friendship, but among the bad confederacy is guilt), have excited in you, through your want of spirit, that terror which they ought to feel for their own crimes.

"But if your concern to preserve your liberty was as great as their ardor in increase their power of oppression, the state would not be dis-

tracted as it is at present, and the marks of favor which proceed from you, would be conferred, not on the most shameless, but on the most deserving. Your forefathers, in order to assert their rights and establish their authority, twice scouted in arms to Mount Aventine; and will not you exert yourselves, to the utmost of your power, in defense of that liberty which you received from them? Will you not display so much the more spirit in the cause, from the reflection that it is a greater disgrace to lose that which has been gained, than not to have gained it at all? Of mutual trust, or concord, what hope is there?

"They wish to be lords; you desire to be free; they seek to inflict injury, you to repel it; they treat your allies as enemies, your enemies as allies. With feelings so opposite, can there be peace or friendship subsist between you? I warn therefore, and exhort you, not to allow such enormous dishonesty to go unpunished. It is not an embezzlement of the public money that has been committed; nor is it a forcible extortion of money from your allies—offenses which, though great, are now, from their frequency, considered as nothing; but the authority of the senate, and your own power, have been sacrificed to the bitterest of enemies, and the public interest has been betrayed for money, both at home and abroad; and unless these misdeeds be investigated, and punishments be inflicted on the guilty, what remains for us but to be the slaves of those who committed them? For those who do what they will with impunity are undoubtedly kings.

"I do not, however, O Romans, wish to encourage you, to be better satisfied at finding your fellow citizens guilty rather than innocent, but merely warn you not to bring ruin on the good, by suffering the bad to escape. It is far better, in any government, to be unmindful of a service than of an injury; for a good man, if neglected, only becomes less active, but a bad man, more daring. Besides, if the crimes of the wicked are suppressed, the state will seldom need extraordinary support from the virtuous." End of quote.

Looking back through the mists of centuries, we find a Roman statesman warning the people of the dangers that confronted them as regards to their liberties, and warning them to be mindful of the oligarchy that was holding them under restraint to the extent that they were awe-stricken, and exhorting them to awake from their stupor, and prepare that gift of liberty that their forefathers had so graciously bestowed upon them.

Rome, that day was evidently a nation of free men, and having trusted their all into the hands of others whose souls were dominated with the passion of avarice, had relaxed their vigil, only to awake to find themselves walking in a fool's paradise. For more than twelve centuries, Rome lived brilliantly, spreading a code of civilization for the world, which it is possible for the people of today to enjoy but where shall we find the Romans today? Only on the pages of books, as in the above-recorded plea by one of their statesmen. With all her greatness, the Romans rest with Egypt, Babylon, Phoenicia, Persia, and many other great civilizations, just on the pages of books.

In 1787 Benjamin Franklin delivered an address in the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia setting forth the dangers of a salaried bureaucracy, in which he said, "Sirs, there are two passions which have a powerful influence in the affairs of men. These are ambition and avarice—the love of power and the love of money. Separately, each of these has great force in prompting men to action; but, when united in view of the same object, they have, in many minds, a most violent effect."

Franklin, with many others of the patriots, had struggled through the dark days of the revolution, to establish the "birthright of mankind" and was, no doubt, apprehensive of what the future held for the newborn republic, and knowing the weakness of mankind, felt a serious expression was necessary.

In a speech delivered at the Illinois Republican Convention, at Springfield, on June 16, 1858, Abraham Lincoln said in part, we quote: "A house divided, against itself cannot stand. I believe that this government can not endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the union to be dissolved; I do not expect the house to fall; but I do expect that it will cease to be divided."

was guided by the spirit embodied in the Declaration of Independence. For his great service in preserving the union, the nation owes him much praise. It has ever been quite evident that there have been dangers along the path that free men travel and for this they should never relax their vigil and there is no time greater than at the present for that vigil to be alert.

In a speech made on June 5, 1788, in the Virginia Convention, called to ratify the Constitution of the United States, Patrick Henry said in part: "The voice of tradition, I trust, will inform posterity of our struggle for freedom. If our descendants be worthy the name of Americans they will preserve and hand down to their latest posterity the transactions of the present times. There is only one way to judge the future, and that is by the events of the past; then who are they that would listen to the song of the siren, sung by the chorus of a designing oligarchy, bartering away their own birthright, along with that of their fellow countrymen, for a mess of pottage, as did the Romans?"

Then who would dare to trample down the American traditions, or to dim-out the principles embodied in the Declaration of Independence; surely not an American.

—R. M. Harrison.

## War Has 4 Lessons For American People

Miss Margaret A. Hickey, of St. Louis, Missouri, president of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, is one of the leading authorities on manpower problems in the United States. As chairman of the Woman's Advisory Committee to the Federal Manpower Commission, Miss Hickey has studied every angle of the employment problem as it relates to war workers.

"There are four great lessons of the war for the American people," she said recently at a press interview at National Headquarters. "First, we have seen that millions were rejected for national service at a time when they were most needed. Second, we have noted that the turnover and absenteeism on the assembly line indicate that we Americans haven't learned job discipline. Third, we see the great need for improved human relationships, the need for courtesy and understanding, the great need for improved employer-employee relationship. Fourth, during the war period, we are closer spiritually as a nation, we are not afraid to acknowledge our spiritual ties. We must keep the spiritual leadership the nation has built and never return to cynicism and superficiality.

"We know that the world's advance depends upon the moral integrity in the nation and the individual.

"There is need of turning our industrial and business vision toward world trade relationships. We have paid in delay and uncertainty for our failure to have a world concept and to realize our relationship to other nations. A spirit of idealism has been developed in the fox holes, the war plants, and in organizations. We must hold these gains when victory has been won.

"We will know that the great lesson of accepting responsibility and rejecting indifference has been learned if there is a great outpouring at the polls this autumn. And it is not enough to go ourselves. We must also take the first voters with us. That is our responsibility. We have been given so much that we must accept still more responsibility."

### Voters May Mark For Any Candidate They Wish Now

Registered voters may vote for either party candidates at the coming general election, and their vote is absolutely secret, it was announced today by Secretary of State Robert S. Farrel, as election's officer.

Misinformation and misunderstandings have caused some confusion in the minds of many Oregon voters, especially newly registered citizens, Farrel said.

"Any voter, duly registered in Oregon, be he democrat or republican, may vote for candidates of the opposite ticket, either individually or as a whole," he emphasized. "Split ticket voting is perfectly permissible in the election on November 7th."

Use of the Australian ballot method of voting assures absolute secrecy at the polls and registrants need have no fears that any person can ever find out how or for whom they have voted.

The misunderstandings probably are due in part to the fact that in the primary election, voters must cast their ballots for those candidates of the party in which they are registered. But in the general election, there is no such restriction and the voter may vote for candidates of any party.

Insurance Specialist, F. R. Bull.

### Townsend Club No. 1 Notes

The local Townsend Club, No. 1, met, with Vice President Mrs. Hatcher in the chair. Thirty-two members were present. Membership report was 28 new members. The good work for "60 at 60" is progressing.

The meeting Sunday was attended by 90 persons, those not hearing Mr. Glen Wilson, national speaker, and Mr. Floyd Dover surely missed a good talk and also missed a good dinner.

The door prize was won by Mr. Davis. A good program was enjoyed, which consisted of violin music by Bob Harrison and readings by Mesdames Sweeten, Alice Ware, Westbrook, Schroeder, Rhule and Kistner.

Next Tuesday evening will be a Halloween masque party and good time is assured for all who attend. Pumpkin pie and cider (ladies make the cider) will be sold. Don't forget to come out next Tuesday evening and have a good time.—Press Cor.

### Townsend Club No. 2

Townsend Club, No. 2, met with Mrs. V. Liday on Oct. 5 and with Mrs. Mary Kick on Oct. 19, for business meetings and for work on various articles to sell. Luncheons were served in the afternoon by the hostesses.

Some of our members went to hear Mr. Wilson speak last Sunday at Woodman Hall. It is very clear, from his talk, that the \$60 at 60 pension, to be voted on Nov. 7, will be very beneficial for our service boys when they come home from the war disabled.

The next meeting of the club will be at the home of Mrs. Wilma Knight, at 231 Second street on Thursday, Nov. 2.—Press Cor.

## VOTE FOR F. C. TRUE

Republican Candidate for Coos County Assessor Nov. 7th



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Fred W. Adams

Republican Candidate

— for —

Joint Representative

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