

But discrimination does exist

Oregon's civil rights laws are among nation's strongest

EDITORS NOTE: What is the shape of the nation's social revolution within the borders of Oregon? The state has strong civil rights laws, yet discrimination exists despite a small Negro population. How do events elsewhere touch the Oregon Negro, and what progress is he making toward equal opportunity? The following dispatch, first of two, explores Negro attitudes and measures the size of the problem.

By Gordon Rice
UPI Staff Writer

In the 1920s the Ku Klux Klan was burning crosses in Southern Oregon and electing public officials to represent it at Salem.

Today, Oregon has one of the strongest sets of civil rights laws in the nation — stronger than the federal laws proposed by the late President Kennedy.

Some of its people have made the transition in attitude, and some have not. That, highly simplified, is the condition Oregon finds itself in the civil rights field in 1963.

"Today I'm proud to say I'm from Oregon at any national meeting or convention," says E. Shelton Hill, executive secretary for the Portland Urban League.

"Our situation in Oregon is ages better than most areas of the nation. . . and improvements have been rapid and I believe are accelerating," adds Gov. Mark Hatfield.

But discrimination does exist. In spite of strong laws, a small Negro population and Oregon's generally enlightened attitude toward civil liberties.

It exists "on a very quiet basis," says Dr. Wesley G. Nicholson, pastor of Eugene's First Congregational Church.

What is the racial situation in Oregon? How are its laws working? What do the Negroes want, and what progress are they making?

It is true that the lack of Negroes means there is no problem, then most of Oregon does not have a serious problem. But this does not make the anguish of one Negro refused service in a small town Eastern Oregon restaurant any less than that of a victim of discrimination in Portland.

Portland Has Most
Negroes comprise less than one per cent of the state's population. About 16,500 of the state's approximately 18,500 Negroes live in Portland. There are smaller concentrations in Eugene, Klamath Falls, Pendleton and a few other cities. The rest are scattered widely.

In 1940 there were 2,565 Negroes in the entire state. Then came World War II, the shipyards at Vanport and other war-time industry. By 1950, there were 11,529 Negroes in Oregon and by 1960 the total had climbed to 18,133.

There are four major civil rights laws on the books: —A Fair Employment Practices Law, enacted in 1949, bars discrimination by employers, employment agencies and labor

L. American post goes to Mann

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Ambassador Thomas C. Mann is taking over direction of U.S. programs in Latin America with a pledge of "complete support" from President Johnson.

Mann, U.S. envoy to Mexico, was named Saturday as assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs. He was directed by Johnson to coordinate the Alliance For Progress and other U.S. programs in Central and South America.

Johnson, in a letter to Mann Sunday, outlined his administration's aims in the area and emphasized that "no work is more important for our generation of Americans than our work in this hemisphere."

"You can count on my intense interest and complete support," the President said. While expressing pride in the Alliance that was begun by the late President Kennedy two years ago, Johnson called on Mann to work even harder on the program.

"We must find ways to expand education, health and low cost housing facilities; we must find ways to help governments increase revenues by tax reforms and, at the same time, maintain an adequate and sustained rate of economic growth; we must find ways to bring about land reform, and, at the same time, to increase agricultural production."

Mann, a native of Waco, Tex., and a personal friend of Johnson, will succeed Edwin M. Martin. The White House said Martin would be given a major ambassadorial post in Latin America.

unions. —The Vocational, Professional and Trade Schools Act of 1951 is designed to prevent bias on the part of training facilities which could give Negroes the skills to qualify for better jobs.

The Public Accommodations Law of 1953, which prohibits discrimination in public accommodations, resorts, places of amusement and in all places of public services.

—The Housing Act of 1957, which bans discrimination in the sale or rental of housing.

Mark A. Smith, a Negro, is administrator of the civil rights division in the State Bureau of Labor. He and three staff members carry the load of enforcing these laws among nearly two million people.

Smith gets about 12 complaints a month, but says "most of them are traced to personality conflicts having nothing to do with civil rights."

Five Public Hearings
Most of the laws win acceptance once the public understands them, he says. There has been no organized opposition and only five cases have gone as far as a public hearing, which is held if attempts to mediate the dispute fail.

"But laws are meaningless unless they are written in the hearts of men," Hatfield said recently in a Salem speech, and this is where civil rights workers think the work must be done.

A Portland apartment house operator recently was overheard advising another to take down a "vacancy" sign if Negroes came to inquire about the housing.

"Tell them you've just rented it and forgot to take down the sign," he said, "and then leave the sign down for six months if you have to, to make sure you don't get into any trouble."

A housewife in Baker hesitates when a Negro family wants to buy her home. Although she disclaims any personal prejudice, she is worried about the reaction of her neighbors.

At Corvallis and Eugene, fraternities and sororities conform to a ban on racial clauses in their charters, but not a single Negro is pledged at either Oregon or Oregon State. One of the few Negroes who signed up for rush at Oregon said later he believed he had been a victim of discrimination.

At Portland State College, Mrs. Vivianne Barnett, president of the Albina Civic and Taxpayers Association, said recently there is now a danger of violence in Portland because of such incidents as Webb's threat to picket the Northwest Towers Housing Project during a proposed dedication by President Kennedy. Webb said the Housing Authority of Portland discriminated in its selection of tenants.

Did Not Visit
Kennedy decided not to visit Portland, and many people blamed the NAACP. "The result is that those who have been liberal have become antagonistic to us," Mrs. Barnett said.

There have been several incidents of violence and one death in Portland in which race played a part. Portland police say there is a "hard core" group of about 30 Negro youths who have been involved in such incidents as a post-football game riot, the chain beating of a white boy on Halloween, and several other beatings. Law enforcement agencies are attempting to get them out of circulation while youth commissions make sure the problem gets no worse.

A white skidroad resident Edward St. George, 44, died after a 1960 beating by a group of Negro youths, including Paul Machen, the brother of fighter Eddie Machen. They told authorities they were upset by racial tension in the South.

Law enforcement authorities are hesitant to be quoted, but police have experienced some difficulty in the heavily-Negro Albina district.

Multnomah County Sheriff Don Clark says it is impossible to determine whether there is more lawlessness among Negroes than whites in the same economic class. For one thing, a Negro may be more likely to be arrested for certain offenses than a white, and on the other hand police and courts may take a less serious view of some crimes in a Negro ghetto.

His term, for this sort of crime, which he admits is not original, is "misdemeanor murder."

Charges Not Related
The charges against Belle in Pittsburgh were not related to his departure from Rio de Janeiro, according to Brazilian authorities.

Belle was accompanied here by an agent of the International Police Organization and was immediately taken into custody by the FBI.

A short time after he landed, the balding former financier was taken to FBI headquarters, then arraigned in federal court on the 20 counts of fraud and conspiracy. Bond was set at \$60,000.

Belle told U.S. Commissioner John B. Garrity he had come back to this country voluntarily "to face the charges against me."

The financial empire established by Belle, and others included the Cornucopia Gold Mines, Inc., Manufacturers Bank of Edgewater, N.J., two electronics companies, a water heater manufacturer and a drapery firm, valued at the time at \$3.5 million.

President Branford Millar halted sorority rushing and suspended all the houses on the campus after they failed to pledge two Negro girls.

There are some Negro leaders who think stronger laws are the answer.

"A disgrace" is the way president Mayfield K. Webb of the Portland chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People describes the fact that the Civil Rights Division receives only about 12 complaints a month.

Wants Law Amended
Webb, generally regarded as the state's most militant rights worker, wants the law amended to allow the Civil Rights Division to investigate possible discrimination without the filing of a formal complaint. He also wants swift, severe punishment of offenders without the slower steps of mediation and conciliation.

"People will learn to live with stronger laws," he says. "Obviously we need changes of attitudes, but I think they will be assisted by stronger laws. At this rate it will take another 100 years."

Webb takes a less favorable view of the situation in Oregon than do most of his colleagues. "I believe there are sundown towns, but I can't pinpoint them right now," he comments.

Several of his pronouncements have badly shaken a few satisfied city officials around the state. Earlier this year he requested assurances from Medford, Grants Pass and Ashland that Negroes would be welcome to use public accommodations in that region. He hinted Negroes would be sent to "test" it if the assurances were not forthcoming.

"We had a tremendous response," he says now. "We accomplished a lot in getting the communities concerned."

Another one of his plans for the future calls for sending a number of Negro young people on a tour of the state to test their reception.

"I think it would be telling," he explains.

Webb's hard-line efforts have brought him some opposition within the Negro community. Mrs. Vivianne Barnett, president of the Albina Civic and Taxpayers Association, said recently there is now a danger of violence in Portland because of such incidents as Webb's threat to picket the Northwest Towers Housing Project during a proposed dedication by President Kennedy. Webb said the Housing Authority of Portland discriminated in its selection of tenants.

Blames Editors
He said he blamed editors more than reporters. "I'd take my chances even though I've had my difficulties with the working press, in the objectivity of the working press," the senator said. "But the fact is that their stories are re-written at a higher level or they're cut out entirely at higher level."

Morse said that during the recent senate debate on foreign aid, he and others like Sen. Ernest Gruening, D-Alaska, had made speeches criticizing the program but "you pick up the press and find not a single reference to the speech."

"You'll find in that same paper a lot of inconsequential news and I happen to think that the press owes to the American people objective reporting on major issues."

Morse said that the situation has become "steadily worse in my judgment, steadily worse."

"I've had even representatives of the great wire services come to me and tell me how sorry they were that a story they had sent in on some issue that I had raised in the Senate was cut out, but they even in some instance showed me the story they sent in; but it was cut out at the upper desk," he said.

Rescued hunter in good shape
NOME, Alaska (UPI) —An Eskimo seal hunter stranded for more than two days on a drifting ice floe in the Bering Sea was flown here Sunday and pronounced in good condition after a physical examination.

An Air Force helicopter rescued Romeo Katezac, 34, Saturday and took him to a Coast Guard Loran radar station on Port Clarence, Alaska, after icing conditions forced the helicopter to turn back from an attempted flight to Nome, 70 miles south of Port Clarence.

Katezac was flown here the next day. Katezac had been riding the mile-square ice floe since noon Thursday when it broke off from the ice pack on which he was hunting for seals.

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AT FORT POLK — Army Pvt. Albert D. Stilwell, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dale G. Stilwell, Bend, will complete eight weeks of advanced infantry training with heavy weapons at Fort Polk, La., on Jan. 10. He entered the army in July. Stilwell attended Bend High School.

Morse charges press fails its responsibilities

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Sen. Wayne Morse, D-Ore., charged Sunday that the American press is failing to give the American people objective reporting on major issues.

"Frequently the American press does a Pravda job on the American people," he said in a television interview (Metropolitan Broadcasting — "Opinion in the Capitol").

"It feeds them what it wants them to read and omits telling them what they ought to know in the news."

Morse issued his criticism when asked about an incident last week in which he protested about too much noise in the Senate press gallery.

"But that's insignificant," the senator went on. "I do have a great disappointment in the American press as a whole, for I have sat in the Senate for 19 years and I think I'm a pretty good witness in the operation of the press in handling political news, and in my judgment, the press does not do, by and large, an objective job of publishing the news."

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Slide disrupts phone service
LAKE OSWEGO (UPI) —Telephone service was disrupted and a Southern Pacific Railroad spur line was blocked by a slide north of here late Sunday.

The slide was believed caused by a leaking water main. It occurred near the highway about two blocks north of the city limits.

A spokesman for Pacific Northwest Bell said the slide interrupted service for an undetermined number of customers. The damage was repaired in a few hours.

No scheduled train service was affected.

East Germans again put price on yule visits

BERLIN (UPI) — Hopes that West Berliners would get Christmas passes to visit East Berlin relatives dimmed today as the Communists again demanded a political price.

Official East German Communist party newspaper Neues Deutschland accused the West Berlin city government of refusing to give guarantees that it would live up to pass agreements.

The city government considered the guarantees demanded by the Communists a bid for recognition of the East German government.

The Communists made the charge as East German and West Berlin negotiators scheduled another meeting today in an effort to break the deadlock on the passes.

But time was running out. It was feared that failure to reach agreement soon would condemn divided Berlin families to their third lonely Christmas since the wall went up.

Foreigners and West Germans can cross the wall into East Berlin. But West Berliners have always been blocked and the Communists have refused past Christmas requests for brief visiting periods.

The negotiations began Dec. 5 but bogged down over what West Berlin considers an East German demand for recognition.

Both sides placed their case before the public Sunday night. West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt, in a radio and television statement, said it should be possible to reach an agreement today that would make the issuance of passes Tuesday possible.

But he dodged the issue of East German recognition.

East German Deputy Premier Alexander Abusch, in an East German television appearance, said if Christmas passes are issued the West Berlin city government must "guarantee security" at the crossing points through the wall on the East-West Berlin city border.

This demand strengthened the belief here that the East Germans want to use the Christmas pass issue to blackmail the West.

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Freighter captain lone survivor in sea ordeal in freezing waters off Norway

NAMSOS, Norway (UPI) — Two fishermen tending their nets along the icy Atlantic shore spotted a strange object Sunday bobbing through the freezing breakers toward coastal rocks.

A ghastly sight greeted them when they drew near in their fishing boat.

Four frozen corpses and a man barely alive were lashed to a battered timber raft, all that was left of the 499-ton Norwegian freighter Jonetta, sunk in a storm two days earlier.

Fishermen Hans Hartvikoy and his brother, Sigfred, stared at the lone survivor, who managed a faint call for help.

"His mouth was almost frozen," Hans said today. "His arms and legs were stiff from cold and he could scarcely raise his head."

The man was the Jonetta's captain, Ole Johansen, 34. He had watched four of his 10 crewmen freeze to death and had seen the other six swept away by the sea, but something kept him awake and fighting for survival.

He told of his ordeal today in the Namsos Hospital where he was reported in good condition and expected to recover, thanks to the Hartvikoy brothers.

The Jonetta was sailing north through a storm and intense polar darkness Friday along the northwestern coast of Norway when the cargo shifted in the storm, leaving the vessel unmaneuverable and at the mercy of the seas.

A huge wave hit the ship and capsized it.

There was no time to radio a distress signal. Two crewmen lowered a life boat down the side as the Jonetta listed badly. A wave smashed them and the lifeboat against the side of the ship and they were gone.

Johansen and his eight remaining crew members launched the timber raft, hastily stocked with provisions, just as the Jonetta went down.

Waves surged into the raft, washing away four of the men and all the provisions.

Johansen and his men were wearing only shirts and trousers. One by one, the captain saw the others freeze to death.

Johansen forced himself to stay awake, fighting to keep his blood circulating. His determination saved his life.

Eastern U.S. in deep freeze

By United Press International
The eastern two-thirds of the nation was kept inside a deep-freeze lockup of cold air masses today that promised to keep temperatures crisp to bitter cold.

Temperatures ranged from 22 degrees below zero at International Falls, Minn., to 47 degrees in Tampa, Fla. Nebraska and the Dakotas had readings that ranged from 10 to 20 below.

No relief appeared to be in sight from the cold fronts which might allow some snow flurries in North and Midwest in the midst of sub-zero weather. Ohio was expecting three or more additional inches in some areas.

Mostly fair skies prevailed across the nation with some cloudiness in the upper Ohio Valley, south central states and the Gulf Coast.

Precipitation has been generally light in the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley. Traverse City, Mich., however, reported an additional six inches of snow.

Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Rhode Island were caught under a freeze-up of temperatures zero and slightly below.



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