'We stayed on from last year'

In game of political one-upmanship, LBJ has just scored again over GOP

If there was ever any question as to the political brilliance of Lyndon B. Johnson, it should be dispelled once and for all.

The President is going to find a chorus of approval for the budget-cutting State of the Union message he made this week. He has rightly assumed that there is a demand for thrift sweeping the nation and he has demonstrated that he will satisfy this demand.

Thus in a few deft strokes he has trimmed $500 million from the $98.4 billion budget of this year and has proved that he stands foresquare for economy. This will be good news to many of us who view with alarm the continuing rise in national debt.

There is, however, political danger in economy. Leading liberals are worried that Johnson may really mean what he says about cutting expenditures. There is a school here that thinks the President is merely playing politics in order to take the wind out of next year's Republican campaign. But there is also a danger that he will continue to practice restraint in expenditures and lose his liberal admirers.

At the same time Johnson, in his message, had something for everybody and this may have satisfied the liberals for now. For example, he asked that former President Kennedy's programs be carried forward. He declared war on poverty, called for medical care for the aged, asked for reform of our "tangled transportation and transit policies," the "most effective, efficient foreign aid program ever," and "more homes, schools, libraries and hospitals."

If there isn't something in that for you, it is because we don't have the space to print his entire 2,852 word speech.

Certainly the President will lose some admirers in areas like Washington State where he has ordered closure of some of the nuclear reactors at Hanford and others where outdated Army posts are being shut down.

Some politicians would probably have advised him to forego these closures at least until after next year's elections. But Johnson is an astute fellow himself. All he has done is make it difficult for Barry Goldwater or anyone else to call him a spender. And economy and the lack of it was about the strongest argument the Republicans had against the Democrats on the domestic front.

Without going into detail, we generally approve of the new Johnson budget. And we think that he has pulled a major coup on the political front too.

We just hope that the President's interest in economy continues throughout his tenure in office.

Ski mountain hat?

The Oregonian, commenting upon Mrs. Hatfield's selection as one of the seven best-hatted women in America, suggests that she would look well in any one of several hats.

She received her award, you know, wearing a high toque of green rose leaves with one red rose a front focal point.

Even though there are several cities where rose growing is predominant, the Oregonian implies that this hat represents Portland. But it says that the rest of us need not feel slighted, which we don't.

Rather than a pillbox of juniper, which the Oregonian thinks Mrs. Hatfield might wear in representing this area, we'd suggest a hat fashioned in the shape of a ski mountain with skiers flaying down the sides.

It would be different and certainly appropriate to this time of year.

Election-year syndrome

The National Committees of both the Republican and Democratic parties are gathering in Washington today and Saturday to begin the drum-pounding that signals another election year. The respite from things political afforded by the 30-day period of national mourning, and the unofficial hiatus decreed by the holidays, give way to ten months of furious politicking.

Republicans will be getting together just in time to digest Sen. Barry Goldwater's (R-Ariz.) announcement on his plans for 1964. An abrasive convention next July 13 in San Francisco seems a certainty. And the G.O.P. committeemen and committeewomen must start working out a party-line campaign strategy to counter a Democratic president who already has stolen much of the G.O.P.'s thunder on the issue of thrift and economy in the federal government.

Democratic leaders obviously would like to help President Johnson choose his running mate, and the list is growing at an alarming rate. The six most serious possibilities appear to be Adlai E. Stevenson, Sargent Shriver, Robert F. Kennedy, Mayor Robert F. Wagner of New York, and Sens. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.) and Eugene J. McCarthy (D-Minn.). But President Johnson is not likely to make any final decision until after the G.O.P. chooses its ticket; the Democratic convention in Atlantic City won't open until Aug. 24.

Some fireworks at the Democratic National Committee meeting could develop when the committeemen assign the numbers of delegates to the convention. The 1964 allocation must be adjusted to reflect population changes reported in the 1960 Census. A move is afoot to try to reinstate a bonus system rewarding states that voted for the Democratic nominee in the most recent election. The general effect of such a change would be to offset the loss in delegate strength in Eastern states which lost or failed to make population gains between 1950 and 1960.

Any cure for congressmen, way they act?

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In the last of three dispatches on Congress, UPI's national reporter explores the question: "Is there any cure for congressmen and the way they act?"

By Harry Ferguson
UPI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (UPI) — So long as he stays inside the boundaries of the District of Columbia, a member of Congress can behave like an absolute monarch.

He can take the floor and attack anybody he chooses for any reason whatsoever without fear of legal reprisal. He can park his car beside a fire plug with reasonable assurance that nothing will happen because Congress rules Washington and its police department.

He can create a near panic in the Defense Department and all other agencies and departments of the government merely by making a phone call and asking an embarrassing question. He is flattered by foreign diplomats, fawned upon by lobbyists and invited to go on television coast to coast.

It is small wonder that a member of Congress, unless he is well balanced and has developed at least a slight sense of humor, sometimes yields to an inner feeling of infallibility and an outward bearing of arrogance. This is one of the things that makes it difficult to change the rules of Congress and bring it out of the horse and buggy age into the modern world.

Some Keep Trying

But a bold minority keeps trying to do it. The leader is Sen. Joseph S. Clark, a Pennsylvania Democrat, who walked into the Senate last Nov. 21, and let his colleagues have it with both barrels:

"Who is to blame for the failure of the Senate to perform our constitutional duty? It is not the leadership. It is the Senate establishment. It is that small bi-partisan group which does not want anything to happen, which appears quite content to have congressional government break down.

"Gentlemen, it is later than we think. The bricks and mortar of which the houses of Congress are built are cracking and falling out of place under our eyes. The American people are becoming disillusioned with the legislative performance of the Congress. They are demanding both action and reform. We must act to restore the efficacy of congressional government before the legislative branch of our federal republic destroys itself because we are unwilling to save it.

"One might say that the ruling cliques in the finance committee, the judiciary committee and the appropriations committee constitute the Senate establishment's nests of opposition to the program of the President. These men are conducting a sit-down strike against the people of the United States. I said in February this would happen. I say in November it has happened."

Proposes Reforms

Last Jan. 15 Clark introduced a resolution to reform the rules and proposed a joint committee of Congress to undertake the task. There are 600 pages of rules governing the operation of Congress, and tucked away in those pages are all sorts of devices and dodges for wasting time and delaying action on legislation. Clark's proposals struck at the heart of the problem:

—Committee chairmen would be elected by the respective committees instead of relying on the rule of seniority. No man could be a chairman after he reached the age of 70.

—An objection could be made after a senator had held the floor for three consecutive hours. Debate on a bill could be cut off after two weeks by a simple majority vote of the Senate.

—A rule of germaneness would be in effect. That means senators no longer could wander far afield in their speeches but would have to stick to the subject of the legislation under debate.

Time Passes

Winter faded into spring, spring into summer and summer into autumn without any action on Clark's proposals. The seasons had gone full circle and it was winter again—Dec. 15—when Clark made a last, desperate move. He attempted to get unanimous consent for the Senate to consider his resolution. The objection of only one senator would be enough to prevent it, and the objection came from Sen. Richard B. Russell of Georgia. He is leader of a bloc of Southern senators committed to fighting any change in the rules that would deprive them of the weapon of the filibuster against civil rights legislation. Whether Clark's resolution is dead or merely sleeping, no one can predict. He plans to continue the fight.

Money-making State Veterans' Affairs agency seen cure-all for fiscal woes

By Zan Stark
UPI Staff Writer

SALEM (UPI)— The money-making State Department of Veterans' Affairs has come into the spotlight as an apparent cure-all for some of Oregon's fiscal woes.

During 1963, $6.5 million of department profits were used to bail out the state's general fund and the Boardman project.

Wednesday Gov. Mark Hatfield suggested department profits should be used to create a student loan fund.

Sen. Vern Cook, D-Portland, charged Hatfield's proposal might bankrupt the veterans' fund.

The department was established in 1945, and through 1951 the state general fund provided $8,017,905 to get the farm and home loan program going.

Bonds Are Sold

In addition, the department sells bonds, which are repaid from loan profits.

During the 18 years the program has been in operation, the Veterans' Department has issued 44,910 loans totaling $374,273,174. About $217 million has been repaid.

During that 18-year period the department earned profits of $11.5 million, in addition to the more than $8 million which has been repaid to the general fund.

In 1952 the department turned $2.5 million back to the general fund.

Last June another $5,517,905 was repaid the general fund. This money was used to keep the general fund from going into the red.

Then in December the special session of the legislature ordered the department to "invest" in 100,000 acres of wind-swept wasteland in northeast Oregon for the planned Boardman Space Age Industrial park.

Total About $2 Million

The department already has spent $1,001,441 on the project, will transfer another $900,000 to the general fund in June of 1965, and pay a few miscellaneous bills which will bring the department's total investment in Boardman to about $2 million.

The $5.5 million repayment to the general fund, and the more than $1 million already spent on Boardman have cut into the surplus.

The department plans to issue about $25 million in bonds this year to raise more cash for loans to veterans.

The department has historically transferred profits to the loans to ease the need for issuing bonds. The department does not have to pay interest on "profits" it loans out, but does have to pay interest on bonds that are sold.

During the 1962-63 fiscal year, the department showed a net profit of about $1.7 million.

Because more than $6.5 million were taken from the department during 1963, a department spokesman estimated the profits for 1963-64 will drop $200,000 to about $1.5 million.

My Nickel's Worth

"When men differ in opinion, both sides ought equally to have the advantage of being heard by the public." — Benjamin Franklin.

Wilderness area abuse is feared

To the Editor:

Much to the surprise of many of us, Rep. Walter S. Baring of the U.S. House of Representatives is holding a hearing in Olympia, Wash., January 9 regarding the wilderness areas in the western states. A number of us have been deeply concerned that so little publicity was given to the hearings and even less to some of the issues at stake. After a hurried survey of some of the concerns that many conservationists have regarding the misuse of the wilderness areas, I wrote the following letter to Rep. Baring:

"In the light of the concern of the Methodist Church for conservation as expressed in the Social Creed and our own concern for the preservation of the natural beauty of the Three Sisters Wilderness Area, we urge the following be considered in any Wilderness bill that may be passed.

"1). The present law regarding mining claims makes it possible for any citizen to have access to wilderness and other dedicated areas utilizing the minerals with little regard to the destruction of natural beauty that may take place. For instance, the nine claims validated in the Rock Mesa of the Three Sisters Wilderness Area provide for strip mining of block pumice which would leave that section despoiled and stripped of its present natural beauty without any conservationist's control. On the other hand, were all mineral claims treated as proposed in S. — 4 and is now common practice in removal of oil and natural gas, not only would there be control against defacing of natural beauty but could also provide a return to the people of the United States related to the value of the mined material.

"The revised Act of October 23, 1962, Statute 1127, provides mineral removal control by the Bureau of Land Management through the U.S. Forest Service for oil and natural gas and could provide the required control for all mining in Wilderness Areas.

"2). As stated in the various mining acts, the claims in Wilderness Areas are applicable only to uncommon minerals. In the case of the above mentioned Rock Mesa Area, the uncommon mineral is block pumice. This is found only in a small area of California and in Rock Mesa. For this reason block pumice has been designated as uncommon and therefore subject to removal in a Wilderness Area. The use of block pumice is that of an abrasive for corns and callouses on the human body and for cleaning blocks to be used on griddles and in toilets. It is our feeling that in all of these cases there are many alternatives on the market that would preclude designation of block pumice as a high priority or an essential material. There should be a better control of the designation of a material as uncommon and needed.

"3). The present Primitive Areas should be included with the Wilderness Areas in the pending b111. The Primitive Areas should be subject to the reviews established in H.R. 9070. This would prevent the kind of exploitation contemplated by certain private interests."

James S. Thompson,
Pastor

Bend, Oregon,
Jan. 6, 1964

Teacher commended for object lesson

To the Editor:

I think Mr. McAfee deserves a vote of thanks for the commendable manner in which he is conducting his Bend Junior High health classes.

I refer mainly to the impressive procedure he has adopted in demonstrating, through the use of a smoking machine, how detrimental the use of tobacco is on the human body. However, my only complaint is now, whenever I smoke in front of my son, I receive a lecture on how harmful this ugly habit is.

I am most thankful that Mr. McAfee has so favorably impressed him. I have often wondered what my reactions were going to be on that inevitable day when I would first catch him puffing on a cigarette.

I believe Mr. McAfee, through his machine, has accomplished, for me, an object lesson far more adequately than I could have successfully portrayed to my son. My personal thanks to Mr. McAfee and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Frank Gravon

Bend, Oregon,
Jan. 7, 1964

Washington Merry-go-round

Morse, LBJ often disagree, but do respect each other

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON — Two of the toughest fighters in the Senate for many years were Lyndon Johnson of Texas and Wayne Morse of Oregon. Both Democrats, they disagreed on many issues but had considerable respect for each other.

That battle has now been transferred to a new tilting ground — the White House and the Senate — with the chief issue foreign aid. Some observers are wondering whether two strong men will now let rancor replace respect.

Just before Christmas Senator Morse was perched on two stools with Mrs. Morse at the Union Station resaurant when someone came up to him and said: "You're being paged."

"Morse answered the phone, found it was the President of the United States.

"Where are you?" asked the President.

"At the Union Station," replied the senator from Oregon.

"What are you doing there?" asked the President. "Why aren't you up in the Senate?"

"Haven't you read the Congressional Record?" asked Morse. "We have an agreement not to vote on foreign aid today."

"Do you expect me to read all the Congressional Record?" asked the President.

"No, but I'd expect you to have someone to do it for you, and fire the person who doesn't keep you informed," was the reply.

The senator from Oregon explained that he had an agreement with the Democratic leadership that there was to be no final action on foreign aid until after Christmas. President Johnson, pushing for a final vote before Christmas, tried to persuade Morse to give up his trip to Connecticut to spend Christmas with his daughter and grandchildren.

Morse pointed out that Sen. Mike Mansfield, the Democratic leader, was in Florida; that Sen. Everett Dirksen of Illinois, the Republican leader, was out of the city; and that under the agreement previously adopted there was to be no showdown vote on foreign aid.

The President said he had been reading a lot of Morse's speeches even though he hadn't been able to read all the Congressional Record.

LBJ Turns the Other Cheek

"You've made a lot of good points," he told the senator from Oregon. "We've got to do something about foreign aid."

The two men talked at some length, but Morse was not persuaded. He caught his train.

When he came back to Washington, the senator from Oregon was asked by friends what he thought of President Johnson and told this story:

"Some years ago when I was down in Texas I made a speech reminding the people of Texas that under the constitution they were entitled to two representatives in the U.S. Senate but had none. 'One of your senators, Price Daniel,' I said, 'represents the oil companies, and the other, Lyndon Johnson, represents himself.'

"Later a dinner was being given for me in the Willard Hotel to raise money for my campaign, and who should turn up but Lyndon Johnson. He told that story on himself, said he hoped I was re-elected and he would come to Oregon to campaign 'either for me or against me whichever would help me most'."

Johnson kept his word not only in the 1956 election to which he then referred but in the 1962 election when Morse was up again. As Vice President, LBJ went out to Oregon and repeated the same story which Morse had told in Texas.

"Despite this I hope he's re-elected," the then Vice President told Oregon voters, "because I know that when he thinks I'm wrong he'll tell me so."

U.S. seeking to restore trade balance

By Jesse Bogue
UPI Staff Writer

NEW YORK (UPI) — President Johnson, in his State of the Union message, reemphasized that the nation's policy will be to keep working toward restoring balance to its international accounts.

The president referred to "our recent progress" in balancing these accounts; in part, this encompassed the successful effort of the past year to slow the outflow of gold from the United States.

The same day that the president delivered his speech, the Defense Department disclosed another step in this direction, with its announcement that it expected to bring back more than 15,000 soldiers and airmen from overseas during the first six months of the current year.

GIs Cost U. S.

Military accountants have estimated that it cost an average of $3,300 a year in gold to maintain one member of the armed services aboard, so that all in all the return home of this number of men and their dependents would close the valve on a potential $50 million outflow.

In paying for the upkeep of these men abroad, the United States laid itself open for a drain on gold because it paid their expenses in U. S. dollars and foreign central banks have the right to demand payment in gold for the dollars.

However, the Treasury and U. S. officials have eased some of this drain by building up reserves of foreign currencies in "swap" arrangements. These and other measures reduced appreciably the outflow of gold from the United States in the past calendar year.

Value of Gold

The First National City Bank of New York pointed out recently in its annual gold review that while some nations have resumed the minting of gold coins, they have done so to furnish something for sale as a commodity, and not for circulation as money. The review noted that nowhere in the world today is gold legal tender—coinage which a government says a debtor may offer and a creditor must accept.

Also, that it cannot be "created" as can paper money, through a printing press; and "last but not least, people in many parts of the world retain their traditional respect for gold. Having lived through the inflations of the past half century, they keep a weather eye on the state of the nation's official gold reserves as a vital indicator of the health of its domestic finances."

Barbs

Rumors do about as good a job of spoiling friendships as roomers sometimes do in spoiling marriages.

We dislike people who talk behind our back, especially in movies.

Now would be a good time for wives to start smoking cigars to help husbands burn up the Yule supply.

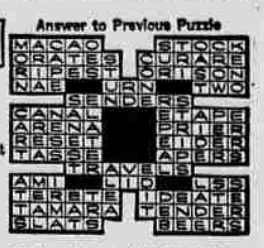
In some of the women's new clothes and on our freeways there are dangerous curves ahead.

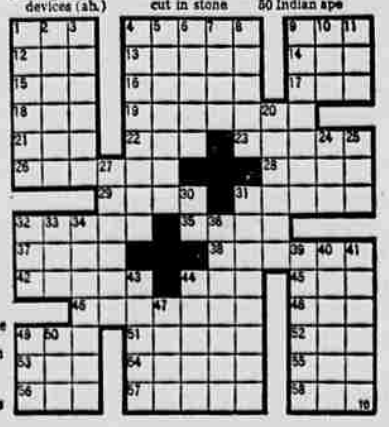
Slicing

ACROSS
1 Slice, as with ax blow
4 Shape artistically
9 Cleave
12 Fermented beverage
13 Bay window
14 Royal title (ab.)
15 By way of
16 One drop
17 Chemical suffix
18 Paid notices
19 Asylums
21 Born
22 Possessive pronoun
23 Poverty-stricken
26 Obliquely
28 Downwind
29 Cut, as hay
31 Insertion
32 Agglomerates
35 Condition a razor
37 Drug source
38 Over
42 Type of wheat
44 Hindu title of respect
45 Follower
46 Argue
48 Varnish ingredient
49 Snowshoe
51 Texas fort
52 Greek letter
53 Brazilian macaw
54 Wanderer
55 Move swiftly
56 Existed
57 British machine guns (slang)
58 Fix in position

DOWN
1 Cuban city
2 Cuts, as words
3 Ermine
4 Grain cutters and binders
5 Short melody
6 Bread crusts
7 Curtain
8 Famous violinist
9 Wood-cutting instruments
10 Vase
11 Article
20 Ignobler
24 English river
25 Still
27 Asiatic wild sheep
30 Chemical acidity symbol
31 Teeth adapted for gnawing
32 Weighing devices (ab.)
33 Slice off, as a tree limb
34 Spiritual torpors
36 Rowers
39 Lubricators
40 Human likeness cut in stone
41 Line cutter (geom.)
43 Rulers
44 Urbane
47 Blood coagulate
49 Type of wood-cutter
50 Indian ape

Answer to Previous Puzzle





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