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# THE ROLE OF A POLITICIAN IN A DEMOCRACY

Something about the British election has raised the question as stated in the title. Churchill, it is reported, will not be able to do many of the things which he believes should be done because he must remain in office as long as possible to do the things he has to do. That is the very problem confronting all politicians in democracies.

If a politician (and here we use the term in its proper sense: to mean a person who is acquainted with public or governmental affairs, and who is informed about the means of obtaining action on them) is to bring about any important change in government he will have to continue in office longer than one term.

If he progresses too fast and alienates the conservatives he may be discarded at the next election and the theories he espouses be lost for want of a sponsor. If he goes too slow some one else moves in a different direction or the job isn't done.

It may always be presumed that the people in a democracy are behind the politicians in ideas and this is naturally so if the politicians are worthy of their position, which is to consider problems and propose a remedy for them. It is not so if the politicians are long bent by prejudice.

Thus we see the spectacle of Mr. Churchill giving a little on free speech and public payments in order that he may stay in office long enough to correct some of the major British weaknesses that have lost that nation so much of its international respect.

The charlatan, who fits the ordinary definition of a politician, is he who gives in on questions in which he might be in disagreement with a potent voting group without performing any work of consequence during his term of office.

Actually it is only in democracies that politicians are found; other forms of government have bureaucrats who do not have to go to the people for support. The popular will means nothing to them. In our country we often see office holders defeated over some minor question who is valuable on many political fronts; we also see men elected because of adherence to some petty point that happens to be prominent at election time.

## HOW TO BE SLOW

D. A. Hulcy, president of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, hit upon an apt means of illustrating a point when he told the truckers that a planned economy would not have been able to let the motor truck compete with horses for years. The lively stable owners and the horse breeders would have had the political power to prevent adoption of new means of transportation, he said.

Of course, it is true that when political considerations have to be taken into account in order to make a change the change may come very slowly. Ours is a "dog eat dog" economy as it is—or was—and anyone who can make a better gadget than the next man is free to develop it. He may have to buck competition, but not the government.

## SNIFF, SNIFF !!

An auditor has just resigned a position with the state highway department giving as his reason the refusal of the civil service commission to raise his salary from \$610 to \$700 per month. Oddity of the story is that the civil service commission should have refused such a request. That is barely understandable.

It is to be hoped that the young man—we do not know his age, but presume that one would be young to quit a \$610 per month job—will have the success he thinks he deserves. We can hardly do more for we are totally unacquainted with the mental processes of a \$700 a month man.

As for the state we hope that construction on the many projects will not be halted or delayed and that some other person will be found to man the adding machine and calculator in the abandoned office.

# NO MATTER HOW THIN YOU SLICE IT



## EDUCATION WEEK

The present fancy of designating a certain period for observance of some usual or continuing activity is not one that historians will point to when mentioning the great and progressive social mannerisms of Americans although it does lead to some humorous situations. Education week is not one of them.

A youngster who spends some 35 weeks of each year in theoretical pursuit of knowledge will probably wonder why any one of them should be named Education week. Yet, it is not for him. Educators, by which we mean those who are engaged by the public to take charge of instructing the young, have had the week named as a period in which they make special effort to interest parents and taxpayers in the process called education.

Partly because teachers have asked for it and partly because parents have liked it, we now turn far too much of children's education to the schools. The home does not function as an educational unit as well as it should. Neither does the church which one time carried no small part of the load.

There is no definition of education that is generally accepted. From the point of a child everything is education whether it be the formal training given in schools, the admonitions against sin given by the churches or the patient instruction of many things in the home. It is a part of education to learn to walk, to add, to read, to speak respectfully to elders, to block a ball carrier, to eat quietly, to understand history. It is hard to see how anything that develops the brain cells can be cast out from a definition of education.

Teachers are handicapped by ideas of democracy. By that we mean that the present theory is that all children should advance a grade a year whether able or not. It does not agree with another theory of democracy which would permit more general competition for advancement—such as all will encounter in adult life. Thus the desire of teachers to "get along" in the neighborhood is expressed.

Schools are given to boasting that the future of the nation depends upon them, which, considering that the percentage of guidance given by schools is not known, may be an idle boast. By the same rule schools must be given the blame for the future if it turns out ill.

Appraisal of schools is different because the product is not proven for 20 years and no one can tell what has happened to the carefully nurtured minds in that time. If schools are rushing to take credit for our mechanical progress as a nation, shall they not also take blame for the decrease in the native American independence of spirit?

Education week will serve a purpose if patrons examine schools then—and if schoolmen examine themselves.

## POLING'S DEFEAT

We would have been happy to hear of a victory for Dr. Poling who was running for mayor of Philadelphia on a Republican ticket. Poling is an Oregonian and his family has a reputation for good works. In these parts, he might have done much to clean up the city of Brotherly Love, a name now more used in derision than in praise.

But Dr. Poling was handicapped by a party that has not administered city affairs very well. Philadelphia has long had a city machine run by Republicans; it being one of the few towns where that party manages a machine. The defeat of Poling was probably a defeat for machine politics and, if so, was deserved.

## THE SIMPLE LIFE

We think we're so superior to old fashioned folk like grandpa when as a matter of fact there is no difference in the attitudes of people for a lot longer than two or three generations. A look at the ads will prove it.

Grandpa might have stood up for Peru as the tilquid that kept him lively and working through summer heat and winter storm but his sophisticated grandson is just as sure that Hadaol is the elixer beyond compare.

We don't know what doctors and druggists and patent medicine manufacturers put into their pills but we do notice that the market for cascara is holding up. A half page ad on the digestive machinery, it's ills and cures, reads like the lingo of a medicine show Indian. Grandpa used to get amusement out of his ills, you recall.

For those who haven't been bald long enough to embrace its advantages there are a number of firms and persons anxious to start a new crop of hair. When grandpa began putting on weight around the loins she went out into the garden for hoeing gloves just the twist needed to keep a waist slim and sweeping did well in its time also; the stores didn't keep reducers in those days.

## TRUMAN'S SPEECH

As a piece of wishful thinking the speech of President Truman Wednesday night was very good. He sounded as if the smart boys in the state department had gotten him to speak what they had written so we could beat Russia to a peace move for once. We'd ought to learn that hidden ball trick better before we try it on the Russians.

If it was to be taken seriously we must conclude that all the argument we have been listening to for six years has been wrong. This administration has been saying that we had to arm. Now when we have apparently achieved superiority in arms, at least in atomic weapons (whatever we're going to use them for) the president says it is a good time to disarm.

The theory is that there would have to be agreement between nations which would include mutual trust. Well, well, and that from a man who has said time after time that we could not trust Russia and who has personal reasons for distrusting "good old Joe".

It sounds like some one around here isn't very smart and we don't think it is the American people who seem to have much sounder ideas about foreign policy than those who should be leaders.

## 518 Have Quit Driving Cars

Some 518 Oregonians lost drivers licenses through suspensions or revocations during October, it was revealed today. The figure, one of the highest for the year, came almost on the heels of the state department's statement that it was going to crack down on potential highway killers.

Driving while intoxicated cost more licenses than any other offense, with 302 convictions on this charge. Under Oregon law, a drunken driving conviction makes suspension of driving privileges mandatory. Suspensions were also handed out to 53 drivers of reckless driving and 37 for violation of the basic rule involving speed.

The state department also continued its get tough policy with drivers known as "repeaters." Eleven licenses were suspended because of repeated traffic violation convictions or accidents.

# Letters to the Editor

I am writing to tell you of our trip to the four corners of the states of Arizona, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico while visiting in New Mexico. Jack had always wanted to go out there while we were so close. So while visiting my sister and husband, Jim and Iris Newton, we asked Jim to go with us out there as he knew the way, as he had been there twice. It is just 68 miles from Farmington, New Mexico. You go 31 miles by highway, one mile "past" the small town of Ship Rock, then the road is gravel until you come to the only sign of the whole trip saying where to go. The sign stated 8 miles to the four corners. The last 8 miles was just a one way road over mountain hills, rocks, sand, and ditches. This was the longest 8 miles I think I ever rode over. At last we came to the four corners. They have placed a cement square joining the four states together, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado.

There has been quite a large place leveled off around there, so cars can drive around in all four states. It was quite a thing to sit on a stone and know you were sitting in four states and knowing at the same time there is no other place like it, in states, counties or nations.

Nothing can grow up there only cactus (which I brought home two) as very little rain ever falls. The rocks are very odd. Some look like large petrified clam shells. Jim found some on a hill, we brought home some of those, too. It looks as if at one time all this land had been covered with water. As it shows water marks on all the hills and rocks. The rocks covering the parking area are all hard black stones, rather like a volcanic ash, only harder.

We looked around for about two hours then started back over our rough road toward Farmington. Well anyway folks we feel we can travel over any road now after being to the four corners. Violet Noonan

Dear Mr. French: A thought has occurred to me which may or may not have any value, psychological value that is. You refer editorially to an article in Collier's about the death of the millionth American in traffic accidents. This grim event is slated to take place in December, 1951. Of course no one knows the name nor financial circumstances of the victim, it could be some destitute person.

How would it be to start a monument fund by popular subscription in small amounts from people all over the country. The monument—the larger the better—to be set up in a prominent place, the site to be selected by a committee, perhaps at or near the scene of the accident or maybe at the approximate center of the country. Name and date to be inscribed thereon at the proper time.

My thought is that if this unhappy event which now may be only a month away could be brought forcibly to the minds of the traveling public it might have a sobering effect, so much so that the dread date might be pushed much further away, perhaps into next year.

This idea may seem fantastic and probably it is. But some times a simple idea catches fire and spreads from coast to coast. I give it for what it may or may not be worth. There would be several details to be worked out. Joe S. Brooks

## RUFUS ITEMS

Mrs. Joe Morris was to Portland over the week end to see her son, Wally. She says it looks like Wally will get a comet home in the near future.

Mrs. Leonard Jordan went to the hospital Friday afternoon and underwent an operation Saturday morning. It is reported she is getting along very well and expects to come home Tuesday afternoon.

The Rufus P.T.A. met Monday evening with quite a few members out.

Mrs. Charles Wilson, president opened the business meeting. The treasurer, Mrs. Bill Macnab gave a report. The president gave a report on what she learned at the Wasco County Council meeting held recently in The Dalles.

Mrs. William O'Brien reported on the nice party held Halloween evening at the school. For the program W. T. Little spoke on "Children and Their Education". Horace Carlisle played a piano solo, and was anchored for another number.

Mrs. Wilson appointed Mrs. An Engberg, Mrs. John Belloni, and Mrs. Gordon Johnson to be hostesses at the next meeting to be held December 3. She put Will Huck, William O'Brien and Bob Morris on the program committee.

The principal, Donal Brislain says the shows held at the Rufus school have been well attended for this series.

## COUNTY RAMBLIN'S

The season is fast approaching for farmers to prepare their income tax returns and lay plans for their record keeping for the coming year. I would like to call attention to the farm record books available through the county extension agent's office.

The Oregon Farm Account Book (gray cover) is still available. It provides a method of keeping a complete farm management record of the farm business. This book provides all information necessary in filing both the state and federal income tax returns whether on the accrual or cash basis.

The new Oregon Farm Record Book and Oregon Farm Inventory Book have been developed to replace the green book. These books were designed to simplify the keeping of records by farmers for federal and state income tax reporting.

The Oregon Farm Record Book is a one year record of receipts and expenses. The summary forms for receipts, expenses and depreciation duplicate the federal income tax Forms 1040F and Schedule D.

The Inventory Book contains space to record inventory information for a six year period. This is a labor saving feature. A special depreciation schedule is provided for purchased breeding and workstock for those reporting income tax on the cash basis.

Full instructions for the uses of these books for the cash or accrual basis are provided. Drop a card or stop for your books at the office.

A good many farmers have been making use of the level and leveling rod available through the county office. The instrument is quite handy in preparing ground sites for buildings, relocating ditches, and other jobs around the place. All county farmers may use the level and rod by contacting the local office.

Last weeks column seemed to indicate rat and mouse bait was available through this office. Concentrated or prepared bait for these rodents may be obtained in local feed stores or drug stores. We do as indicated handle squirrel poison as prepared by

## Want Ads

LOST: White Australian Shepherd. George Drinkard, Wasco. 1-2p

WANTED: Scrap iron, metals junk batteries, hinges, horse hair, etc. Sam Forman Wool & Hides, 205 Jefferson St. The Dalles, Oregon. 51-52-1-2c

EXCHANGE: Wish to exchange an 11 acre berry farm with an 8-room modern house and free water for irrigation for a dairy or stock ranch in central or eastern Oregon. Strout Realty Co. Box 109, Gresham, Oregon. 1-3p

FOR SALE: 8 complete plow bottoms, model 66, cast, John Deere, new shares and used shares and all parts, including extra moldboards. Tex Irzyk, Moro, Oregon. 50tf

NEED AN ALL-PURPOSE CAR? Then see the Willys Station Wagon on display at WILLIS MOTOR CO. All steel body, overdrive, plenty of carrying capacity means safety, economy and practical transportation. Also New Four Wheel Drive JEEPS, PICK-UPS, and STATION WAGONS. Contact WILLIS MOTOR for Willys-Overland Sales, Service, Parts and Accessories. West Columbia River Highway, The Dalles, Oregon. 23-tfc

CUSTOM SLAUGHTERING—Meat cutting, wrapping, sharp freeze. Bring them in any day but Sunday C & C Food Store, Grass Valley, Oregon. 24tfc

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS. Use our capital. Supply 800 family route with top quality products, backed by our 80 year reputation. Write for full information to the J. R. Watkins Co., 137 Dexter Ave., Seattle 9, Washington. 49-54c

DISTINCTIVE FUNERAL SERVICE WITHIN THE MEANS OF ALL SMITH-CALLAWAY CHAPEL Leonard R. Smith The Dalles, Oregon Phone 3135

WHY NOT ENJOY THE LUXURY OF THE GENERAL ELECTRIC Automatic Blanket COOLER WEATHER AHEAD BARNEY'S HARDWARE & ELECTRIC GRASS VALLEY

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Orders for next years use may be placed through Jim Jones, Grass Valley or through this office.

Brevor, one of the new smut resistant wheat varieties, seems to be quite satisfactory for the Kent area. A cereal nursery established on the Kenneth Sather ranch in cooperation with W. E. Hall, Sherman Branch Experiment Station, has shown this variety to be the highest yielding in two years of testing. Brevor yielded five bushels more per acre in the plots than Elmar, Golden, or Elgin this year. Test weight has been good, going over 60 pounds. George Wilson and Charlie Davis have a sizeable acreage of this wheat which should give us a good picture of its value for the Grass Valley and Kent areas. Brevor has yielded well at Moro and does have the most smut resistance known to date.

Bill Hall and I established the

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has filed in the County Court of the State of Oregon for Sherman County his Final Report and Account as Executor of the Last Will and Testament of Annie Williams, deceased, and that Saturday, November 17, 1951, at ten o'clock A. M., of said day, at the County Courtroom, in the Courthouse, at Moro, Oregon, has been fixed by the Court as the time and place for hearing of objections to said Final Report and Account and the settlement of said estate.

Donald J. Williams  
Geo. G. Updegraff,  
Attorney for Executor 50-1c

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has filed in the County Court of the State of Oregon for Sherman County her final Report and Account as Administratrix of the estate of Kenneth P. Walker, deceased, and that Saturday, December 1, 1951, at ten o'clock A. M., of said day, at the County Courtroom, in the Courthouse, at Moro, Oregon, has been fixed by the Court as the time and place for hearing of objections to said final Report and Account and the settlement of said estate.

Owletus Walker  
Geo. G. Updegraff,  
Attorney for Administratrix. 11-29,16,23,1951

From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

Bud "Talks Turkey" - Long Distance

Some people chuckled when Sonny Fisher rented a home recording machine to record the noise his flock of turkeys make.

"I sent the recording to a buyer for a super-market chain," Sonny said. "I told them 'My turkeys speak for themselves—listen to this record!' They not only took my birds, but bought the record!"

"Why did they want the record?" I asked him. "Very simple," he says. "They're going to play it over the loud speakers in their stores—and then an announcer on another record reminds the customers that turkeys are plentiful and a good buy."

From where I sit, it's not always smart to make fun of someone just because he does things a little differently. I think a glass of beer is the most refreshing beverage there is. You—or Sonny—may prefer something else. But who's to decide one's right and the other's wrong? Let's stay "on record" that everyone's entitled to his own tastes and opinion.

Joe Marsh

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# The EASY-DOES-IT CORNER

Speed Overhaul Jobs With Homemade Piston Cleaner

If you do your own maintenance on your car, you may be interested in making this little gadget we heard about. It makes the scraping of piston ring grooves fast and easy.

Call us about it. Fine products like this plus faithful service are the mainstays of our local business.

NEW RPM MOTOR OIL

Of course, you won't have to worry about this job if you use New RPM Motor Oil. The first motor oil developed through atomic research, New "RPM," compared with conventional oils, "doubles the life of average automobile engines between major overhauls due to lubrication... cuts in half the wear-rate of vital engine parts.

Distributed by Keith McDonald Phone 552 Wasco, Oregon