

Letter from Washington--

Harris Ellsworth
4th District, Oregon

The State of Oregon has suddenly assumed a position of considerable importance in the national political scene. It is generally conceded that, if Harold Stassen wins a decided victory in the Oregon Primaries May 21st, this victory coupled with his recent successes in Wisconsin and Nebraska will indicate a strong current of public opinion running in his favor. On the other hand, should Governor Dewey defeat Stassen in Oregon, it would be taken as an indication of national strength for Dewey.

Frankly admitting the importance of the Oregon Primary, Dewey has announced that he will personally spend three weeks in a sort of door-to-door campaign in our state. He will speak at breakfast, luncheon and dinner meetings, will endeavor to visit most of the cities in the state, and will meet and greet as many voters as possible. Stassen has made several appearances in Oregon during the last two years. I have not heard that he will be there again before May 21st, but it is pretty certain that a great many of his supporters and workers will be active there.

Judging from conversations I have heard at the luncheon table and in the cloakroom, I believe Republicans

here are going to be paying very close attention to the election returns from Oregon the night of May 21st.

Not long ago, the House Un-American Activities Committee implied that Dr. Edward U. Condon, Director of the National Bureau of Standards, was a bad security risk. The committee also intimated that Dr. Condon should be removed from his important responsibility, which involves, among other things, close contact with the work being done by the Atomic Energy Commission. Statements in the press were neither clear nor conclusive, with the result that it seemed as if Dr. Condon were being maliciously and deliberately smeared.

The House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, of which I am a member, lately had occasion to hear testimony on this subject. The matter was recently debated on the Floor of the House. It was stated, and the statements were proven by documents and photostatic copies of documents, that Dr. Condon is a member of the American-Soviet Science Society, and is a member of the executive committee of that organization. The American-Soviet Science Society is closely affiliated with the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Inc., which organization was cited as subversive by Attorney General Clark. The closeness of the affiliation of these two organizations is proven by the fact that they have the same office address in New York and use the same telephone number. A photostat of a cancelled check drawn in favor of the Science Society and endorsed by the American-Soviet Friendship organization was exhibited on the Floor of the House.

These facts do not constitute the entire case against Dr. Condon, but I think they are sufficient to indicate that Dr. Condon is indeed a poor

security risk and should not, at this time, be employed by our government in a position of trust and in daily contact with our secret scientific military information.

When I visited England in 1944, I had the pleasure of a good visit with Lord Beaverbrook who publishes the London Daily Express. (The Daily Express, by the way, boasts the "World's Largest Daily Net Sale.") Recently I received a clipping of a Daily Express editorial from Lord Beaverbrook. The editorial had to do with the Marshall Plan, and after nearly a column praising the generosity and good spirit of America, concluded with the following sentences:

"It is a gesture more striking than any that has gone before.

"Praise the warm feelings of the American nation.

"Recognize the high endeavor to help the distressed world.

"Even though the belief must be reiterated that the Loan did nothing but injury to Britain and the Empire, and the Marshall aid will have the same result."

I quote this merely to show that at least one great British newspaper is not in favor of asking such big favors from us.

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PRIVATE AIRPLANE OPERATION COSTS GIVEN IN REPORT

A private airplane may be an expensive luxury or a business asset depending on conditions, needs, amount of use and many other variables, according to a bulletin just issued by the engineering experiment station at Oregon State college entitled "Economics of Personal Airplane Operation."

This is a rather technical report of research work done by W. J. Skinner, former instructor of aeronautical engineering at the college and now on the staff of Cornell university. The study was carried on while Skinner

was in Oregon at the suggestion of B. F. Raffner, head of the work in aeronautical engineering at the college and chairman of the state board of aeronautics.

The effect of cost of operation on private airplane use is indicated by figures cited by Skinner showing that one third of all airplane owners keep their planes only one year. Another 22 percent continue ownership only two years, while the mean period of ownership is less than four years. More than 50 percent of former owners gave financial difficulty as the reason for disposing of their planes.

The bulletin, issued as circular series N. 10, discusses the factors that enter into the cost of operation and ownership and then presents a chart form by which costs under varying circumstances can be computed.

In one such instance given by the author a situation is assumed where a man buys a \$3000 plane with cruising power of 80 horsepower and a cruising speed of 80 miles per hour. Oil cost is figured at 35c per quart, fuel cost at 26c per gallon, and hangar rental at \$150 per year.

At these prices and assuming annual use of the machine for 300 hours, the hourly cost of operation figures to be \$7.34 or 9 cents per mile. This includes insurance, depreciation and interest on investment.

Skinner adds that the personal plane cannot be compared logically with the automobile for short trips,

nor with railroads and airplanes for cross-country trips. Comparisons are best made with automobiles for 200 to 500 mile trips and with rails and air lines in the 500 to 800 ranges.

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