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From Both Sides at Once

The scene is the same. The probable results are directed to the same outcome. Only the words and music stand a chance of being somewhat different.

On July 12, in Philadelphia, the national convention of the Democratic party will come to order. The outstanding job to be done will be the selection of a presidential and vice-presidential candidate, along with a flock of high-sounding words that will try to outdo the high-sounding words whipped together by the Republicans in their political platform for the coming fall election.

The Democratic party, by reason of a general falling-apart at the seams, might be in for a stormy session. A big consideration, which occupies the minds and reflexes of political dabblers and masterminds is whether or not Harry S. Truman will be ignominiously dumped as presidential candidate.

This much must be said of Truman. In his investigation committee, during his senate incumbency, he was garbed in heroic raiment. Whether by the force and drive of his field representatives or by his own ability to make capital of opportunities, Senator Truman had his electrifying moments.

When he was bequeathed the presidency, upon the lamented passing of FDR, Truman still kept that spark of public sympathy and confidence. But through some three years of duty at the head of the state, Truman's favor has slipped somewhat.

One of the most sweeping condemnations that had been leveled against the Democratic rule of some four administrations was that its New Deal was spending the country into bankruptcy. Yet today, at the very brink of the great political determination, there is a treasury surplus in excess of 8½ billion dollars over federal expenditures. On paper, this would seem business-like administration.

The touchy sore spot, particularly with Southern Democrats, which is part and parcel of the anti-Truman sentiment, concerns the presidential denunciation of racial prejudice and discrimination. Yet, in spite of all his thundering oratory (if it might be so called) neither the President nor his political party has accomplished any act of legislation which might in one whit improve the situation at which he shouts. And that in sixteen years.

Truman and his fellow Democrats are trying desperately to pump life into the belief that their party is a liberal party. Yet, labor legislation by injunction and vigorous witch hunts directed by the President's request would hardly seem a stirring example of liberality.

So stubborn is the opposition Truman has generated, maverick Democrats are scurrying around seeking the vulnerable spot in Ike Eisenhower's "I am not a candidate" defenses, to draft him as the shining dark horse who will sweep the country in Democratic victory.

By every means of public utterance, the former general declares he is not highly qualified for such political leadership. He has made no outline of his governmental philosophies, made no commitments and with every gesture and pronouncement has shunned the usual trappings of high office seeking.

What sort of president he might make is anyone's guess. But so desperate are the Democrats at the threat of being cut off at the public trough, they'd gladly nominate even the statue of Liberty, if they could get her to lay down that book pertaining to the American Bill of Rights which she holds in her left arm.

There have no doubt been presidents who did a much worse job than Harry S. Truman. But the distaste for his renomination is deep and bitter.

From the sidelines, after the Democrats run through their usual hullabaloo and decide on their national figurehead, it will be interesting to note what political liability is the practice of talking from both sides of the mouth, at once.

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From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

Will's Hospitality Isn't "Cracked"!

Ever since January, Will Dudley planned to give his living room that "new look"—planned to carefully refinish the woodwork and replaster the walls.

Every time Will got out the putty to start filling in the cracks, a neighbor stopped by to pass the time of day—and first thing you know, there was a group of us helping Will do the job up right. After Will called a halt to the evening's work, we'd sit around the fire enjoying a friendly argument and a sparkling glass of mellow beer.

So Will's living room doesn't look like it did a year ago—but it's by far the most "livable" living room I know: A place you can always drop in for good talk, good beer, and a warm welcome.

From where I sit, so long as Will puts that atmosphere of hospitality and good fellowship ahead of everything else, we'll all be happy to help Will change the looks of his living room any time he wants.

Joe Marsh

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ELSEWHERE IN OREGON

Events As Chronicled by Our Contemporaries In Northwest Communities

HARVEST OF WILD EELS

Concurrent with the harvest of strawberries, peas, beans and other items that have ripened in season, an annual harvest is now taking place at the falls on the Willamette river, Oregon City, of the squirming, often-stinking lamprey eels.

These eels are wild. Or so they seem as they flounder and twist in variously-devised traps as described in the BANNER COURIER. Yet even wilder were the residents along the banks of the river before an enterprising harvester noted the rich oil in lampreys.

Before these annual harvests, the banks of the Willamette, for miles below the falls, were thick with the nauseous, rotting bodies of lampreys which had failed to negotiate the falls. Stopped by this barrier, the lampreys would fall back into the river, to die and float back downstream, finally lodging along the banks.

Thousands of these slippery migrants go by escalator over the falls and the lamprey collectors have traps set that interrupt the flow of traffic and by various arrangements of traps and sluices redirect it into underwater tanks and fish barges. Then, the take is transferred to barrels for shipment to a rendering plant.

The lampreys are rich in vitamin oils and because of this value have given rise to an important seasonal harvest. Last year, the take was some 180 tons and the

Crop and Market Outlook for 1948 In Good Prospect

General good crop prospects for major items, are indicated in a summary of the agricultural situation at mid-1948 just prepared by L. R. Breithaupt, Oregon State college extension agricultural economist. Meanwhile, the buying power of consumers continues at a near record high level.

The summary is contained in a regular agricultural outlook circular which also contains data on price trends for all major farm products.

No clear sign of much recession, if any, in this country in 1948 is seen. Exports of food are expected to continue large, although probably below 1947-48. Thus the 1948-49 marketing season starts with demand again exceptionally strong.

United States production of all crops combined is expected by the United States department of agriculture to equal the average of the past ten years, at least. On the other hand, the output of animal products for food may be the least since 1941. Meat production this year may fall 10 percent below 1947, with milk output somewhat smaller, and egg and poultry production down considerably.

Fruit production prospects are also mostly less favorable than a year ago. Other food crops have variable outlooks. Grain crop prospects are exceptionally good. Wheat and rye production may exceed any other year except 1947. The supply of feed grains and hay in relation to animal numbers may be the largest of record, nationally.

Price trends and outlook are also variable, with the exchange value of some farm products higher and others lower than a year ago. Overall, farm cost prices advanced more than the average of prices received by farmers.

Buildings From Columbia River Forts on Block

Bids for the sale of certain buildings and improvements at three army forts near the mouth of the Columbia river, Fort Stevens, Oregon, and Forts Columbia and Canby, Wash., have been invited by the Portland district, crops of engineers.

The sale consists of 168 structures, majority of which are frame construction, and bids will be opened at 1 p. m., July 13.

There are 116 structures at Fort Stevens, consisting of barracks, messhalls, administration buildings, storehouses, warehouses and miscellaneous cantonment buildings.

At Fort Columbia there are seven miscellaneous buildings and one gravel bunker. The 44 structures at Fort Canby include barracks, storage buildings, messhall, theatre, administration and miscellaneous cantonment buildings.

Arrangements for inspecting the property may be made with the custodians of the forts between the hours of 8:30 a. m. and 4:30 p. m. Inspection of Forts Columbia and Canby may not be made on Saturdays and Sundays.

Invitations for bids may be obtained from the district engineer, Portland district, corps of engineers, 628 Pittcock Block, Portland 5, or from the representative of the district engineer at each of the respective sale locations.

year before 200 tons. Although a sudden drop in water level caught the harvester with his traps down, the harvest this year is hoped to approximate that of former seasons.

A SHELL AND PEA GAME

While a large percentage of the strawberry crop is destined to waste away on vines because there are not enough pickers available, St. Helens notes the beginning of a shell and pea game which is characterized by large machines and mechanical devices.

The pea game, in this instance, is told in an account by the SENTINEL-MIST of mechanical devices which not only find the pea but also discards the shell and weighs the net product.

Some 376 acres of peas is being processed in the area by an operation that runs around the clock. Truckloads of pea vines are run by conveyor belt into barrel-shaped shellers that resemble over-size automatic washers.

The vines and pods pass through the cylinder-machines and are separated. The peas drop through sieves and go one way. The vines and shells pass along onto another conveyor belt system and end up in trucks where, in many cases, they are returned to the farmer for ensilage.

The peas are separated, mechanically, by size and are weighed to determine their degree of tenderness. A "tender meter" readily determines the grade of peas, by weight, and so establishes the price to be paid the grower.

About 70 men do the work, in two crews of 11½ hours each. Workers had to be imported from Portland because the standard cannery wage of \$1.14 per hour was too low for the area to attract local shell and pea operators.

BILLIONS FOR WAR BUT—

Billions of American money is available for the continual squandering in behalf of foreign policy in China, Greece, Turkey, Iran and countless other far-off places. But congress and the national administration sits placidly twiddling its thumbs on the issue of major flood control which might, conceivably, lessen such losses to American citizens as have recently occurred in the Columbia river sphere of influence.

So is the rather pointed observation of the Oregon Farmer Union, issuing from Salem.

The paper points out that although Truman, on his non-political campaign tour of the nation delivered high and mighty words that blamed congress for not beginning a CVA, his responsibility stems from his surrender to the military who laid hands of billions for military training, draft plans, vast new naval and air fleets, subsidized allies in every quarter of the globe and a world wide chain of bases until now there is nothing left for constructive projects such as flood control.

SEWER PLANS

The sewer issue, that is so prominently "with" many communities in the state, is coming under close scrutiny in the city of Sherwood.

The preliminary survey will clear the way for compliance with state and federal sewage disposal requirements, reports the VALLEY NEWS. Tests have shown the present system is highly inadequate and corrective measures are indicated as a must.

Sherwood, of course, will not have to put in mains and laterals, as these have already been installed.

Only addition necessary will be a sewage disposal plant and trunk line to drain the present network of sewer lines.

FOUR TIME INCREASE

Reflecting the high cost of costs, the city of Gresham is mulling over the largest operating budget in its history, for 1948-49, with the estimated amount \$141,794.17, or some four times the current year's \$32,266.34.

However, the OUTLOOK points out, anticipated increase of income from sources other than taxes is expected to result in only a light millage levy income.

High priced police protection, over the present list of salaries accounts for some \$12,000 while the firemen demand only \$4,200.

SWIM POOL OPENS

While other communities in Washington county might wish for a public swimming pool, the city of Forest Grove is going right ahead with plans for a gala program to formally mark the opening of its soon-to-be-finished swimming tank.

August 1 is the date of the opening, says the NEWS TIMES—subject of course to a check with the contractors doing the job. As the temperature seems headed for a mid-summer sweeter, more and more questions have been asked as to the date of anticipation.

When ready for the public, the pool will be in complete operation, except that the boiler for heating the water may not be required. The boiler was included in pool equipment in order to make possible longer periods of use.

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Vet Adm. Expects Dividends in '49 On GI Insurance

Dividends on all but a few national service life insurance contracts, whether lapsed or still in effect, is expected by the Veterans Administration possibly by 1949, as a result of a U. S. supreme court ruling which has the effect of freeing surpluses accumulated in the insurance fund, by denying that the VA was obligated to pay up to many times the face value of some insurance contracts.

The decision was handed down on June 14, last year. Because it must determine how much of the insurance fund is surplus and how much of such surplus should be distributed as dividends, the VA gives one year as the approximate period before which it can start paying off.

Amount of each dividend will be determined by the amount of insurance carried, the period it was in force and the age of the insured. Payment will be made on both term and converted insurance, regardless of whether or not the converted insurance has been surrendered for cash value or subject to loan.

Beneficiaries of deceased veter-

Annual Festival Hood River Fetes Stars of Music

The first annual music festival of Hood River, Oregon, will be held August 5 to 8 with a series of outstanding performances scheduled with world-renowned stars as headliners during the event, under direction of Boris Sirpo, celebrated Finnish conductor.

Ezio Pinza, foremost operatic basso of this era, and the internationally known Alma Trio;

ans will also receive dividends based on the amount of premiums paid by the insured prior to his or her death.

Veterans administration also announces a plan to issue regular insurance policies instead of "certificates of insurance," upon conversion to a permanent type protection. These policies will be available some time late in 1948.

Veterans or beneficiaries are advised that these policies and dividends as well will be paid automatically, on the basis of available records, without application. As no information can be given as to amount of dividend or date of policy issuance, inquiries will be futile and only further delay the administrative wheels within the VA.

Adolph Baller, pianist; Roman Totenberg, violinist, and Gabor Rejto, cellist, will be there.

A feature will be the Pacific coast premiere of Arthur Honegger's oratorio "King David" with two famous Hollywood narrators, a symphony orchestra, a chamber orchestra, a junior symphony, 100-voice adult choir and a 100-voice children's chorus, being programmed.

Seating has been arranged for nearly 7000 in an outdoor setting of great beauty, and to accommodate the crowds expected the hospitality of homes in Hood River and surrounding areas will be open to visitors at nominal charges for private bedrooms.

Season tickets for the event, called "Salzburg of America," may be obtained by writing Hood River Music Festival, Box 35, Hood River, Oregon.

The festival's setting offers scenic attractions, hiking, mountain climbing and fishing for visitors wishing to spend vacation time in the area.

A good man does good merely by living.

The man who does not look up will look down, and the spirit which does not dare to soar is destined to grovel.

—Lord Beaconsfield