

STATE CAPITAL NEWS

- Martin's Move
- Veterans' Home
- New Capitol Offices

By A. L. LINDBECK

SALEM—What part will Governor Martin play in the forthcoming campaign?

That is a question which leaders in both political parties would very much like to have answered, for, despite his recent defeat in the Democratic primaries the governor is recognized as a very influential factor in Oregon politics—if he wants to exert that influence—with a large personal following awaiting his nod before definitely allying themselves with either of the contending candidates.

Three courses are open to the governor:

He can, as the nominal head of the democratic party in the state, come out with an endorsement of the candidates selected by his party, urging the voters to forget the bitterness of the primary campaign in the interest of a united front in support of the ticket. That, of course, is what the Democratic leaders are hoping he will do but which the Republican leaders are just as fervently hoping he will not do.

Assuming that the governor is not willing to forget and forgive but that on the other hand he prefers to remember the treatment he received at the hands of his partisans and particularly the kick in the pants administered by Secretary Ickes and other national leaders to which, in large part, he attributes his defeat, there is a second course open to him. That course involves a public endorsement of the Republican nomination, an action which could be depended upon to carry with it thousands of conservative Democrats into the Republican camp for the duration of the fall campaign.

The third course open to the governor is one of strict neutrality. This is the course which most informed political observers now believe that the governor will take. That instead of meddling in the affairs of either party he will elect to sit silently in his tent and watch the political battle from afar, giving aid to neither side, nor so much as indicating to his followers with which faction his sympathies lie.

Two incidents of the past week have demonstrated very clearly that the governor is not ready to forget his treatment at the hands of Democratic leaders in the recent campaign. Both of these incidents involved public rejections of peace overtures tendered by these national leaders of his party. One was an invitation to join President Roosevelt's party in California. The other was an invitation to break the fast with Postmaster General Jim Farley in Portland. Both rejections bore the "sincere regrets" of the governor and both gave "press of public business" as the excuse for not accepting, but it does not take a professional seer to read between the lines a meaning far deeper than this superficial alibi.

Friends close to the governor have let it be known that he is fed up with politics. Untrained in the wiles of the politician, unwilling to accept the standards that make for success in politics and disgusted with the hypocrisy and demagoguery that characterize the "game," all that he wants of those who pull the strings that make the puppets jump is to be left strictly alone to complete his term of office without further interference and then to be allowed to retire to a quiet private life to the enjoyment of the numerous honors that have come to him through more than half a century of public service.

Seven women were among the 100 law school graduates who took the bar examination here this week. Sixty-one of the applicants for admission to the Oregon bar are residents of Portland, 17 are from Salem, six from Eugene and 16 from various other Oregon communities. Fourteen law schools were represented among the applicants including the University of London, England.

Resolutions adopted by the Veter-

ans of Foreign Wars at their annual encampment here this week call upon the legislature to establish and maintain a State Home for the care of aged needy veterans.

The action is reminder of the fact that up until May 8, 1933, Oregon maintained such an institution at Roseburg where veterans were being cared for at a cost to the state of approximately \$50,000 a year.

At that time the Federal government took over the institution with the understanding that it would establish a National Home on the site where Oregon veterans would continue to receive as good, if not better, care than the state had been able to provide. Only recently the federal government has converted the Roseburg institution into a hospital for the treatment of mental cases and veterans complain that no provision has been made for the care of aged veterans in need of a home.

State Treasure Holman has a perfectly good office safe which he is willing to trade for a smaller one. The safe, which has done duty in the treasury department for many years, is too big for the new capitol. No door into the treasury department will admit the heavy piece of office equipment and careful measurements have revealed that it will not even go through a window as had been planned. Although Holman's department is equipped with the very latest in modern, fire-proof, burglar-proof vaults, insurance companies still insist that the state's millions in securities must be stored in a fire-proof safe to be installed inside the fire-proof vault. Just one of those things, Holman says, which bear no explaining.

Earl H. Fehl, former county judge of Jackson county, lost his appeal to the supreme court. The state's high tribunal has ruled that his commitment to the hospital for insane was entirely regular. His ultimate release, according to the court, will be up to the superintendent of the institution.

All of the state departments assigned to space in the new capitol are now at home in their new quarters. The first floor contains the State and Treasury departments, the Budget department, Board of Control and Purchasing departments and the State Land Board. The executive department occupies a suite of offices on the second floor. A suite of rooms in the south wing of the third floor is occupied by the division of audits and the State Police have taken over the corresponding suite just across the roof on the 4th floor. While there are two public elevators in the building only one is being operated, causing considerable confusion to visitors since the two elevators are situated some 50 feet apart and one guess is as good as another as to which one is in use.

Owners of the Elks building in Portland are now offering the property to the state for \$660,000, remodeled for use as an office building. This figure is \$30,000 under the original asking price for the building. The offer includes a hotel adjacent to the Elks building which would be razed and the ground used for parking purposes. The Board of Control has announced that it would pass on the offer at a meeting scheduled for next Monday.

Determined to enforce the observance of safe speeds on the Ochoco highway leading into Prineville, officials of that city said they will ask the state police to put a stop to speeding, and declared they will station a policeman at the city limits if the state police regard the problem as a purely local one. This action followed a report on the situation at a chamber of commerce meeting. "I regard these efforts at enforcement as progressive and fruitful, and commend Prineville officials on their stand," Secretary of State Earl Snell commented.

Clean windshields are highly important for safe summer driving, particularly in the early morning and late afternoon when the rays of the sun come directly through the glass into the driver's eyes, Secretary of State Earl Snell advises. Drivers should be careful either to have their windshields cleaned at service stations or do the job themselves, since avoidance of accidents often depends upon 100 per cent visibility.

● LOOKING FORWARD

By FRANKLYN WALTMAN,
Publicity Director, Republican
National Committee

None will dispute that President Roosevelt is the greatest political showman in our history. Indeed, he could give lessons to that synonym for ballyhoo and showmanship, P. T. Barnum.

In passing, it might be mentioned that for the first time in almost a century the great Barnum-Bailey-Ringling Brothers circus has been forced off the road and into winter quarters in the middle of its season—a victim of hard times. Apparently not even the "greatest show on earth" could compete with the New Deal circus.

But to return to Mr. Roosevelt. Like the illustrious Barnum, the President frequently is far more entertaining and diverting than he is accurate. Like Barnum, Mr. Roosevelt is not above pious humbuggery and hokum—not to say political hypocrisy—in order to hold the attention of his audience.

Hokum at Oklahoma City

Mr. Roosevelt's recent barnstorming trip across the country affords several illuminating examples of how much like Barnum his methods and technique are. In his Oklahoma City speech Mr. Roosevelt professed to "remember," and not too accurately, events in the history of that State which occurred when he was seven and eight years old.

It is odd that Mr. Roosevelt's memory goes back so far when it fails him miserably regarding events of less than six years ago. For instance, in his speech at Covington, Kentucky, Mr. Roosevelt said:

"On my Kentucky visit in 1932 my train moved slowly from Covington to Louisville and then in a southeasterly direction through village and farming sections and mining districts. As we stopped at small stations crowds congregated. Hunger stared out at me from the faces of men and women and little children.

"It was a chill day and for the actual want of clothes people stood there shivering."

"Tears in our Eyes"

Mr. Roosevelt went on to assert that as he and "dear Alben" Barkley on that day in 1932 stood on the rear platform of the campaign train looking on these scenes "tears were in our eyes."

As Mr. Roosevelt's voice, quivering with pathos, over the radio, described that scene I was deeply affected until suddenly I remembered that as a newspaper reporter I was on that trip with him. At once the events of that day stood out in my mind—and I could not recall such details of misery.

Indeed, I remembered it was a bright day, marked by warm sunshine. I could not recall any tears in Mr. Roosevelt's eyes, although I had observed him at each stop we made. I recalled him as his usual gay, smiling self. Moreover, I remembered, we did not come to Louisville on that trip by way of Covington. We came into Kentucky from the West, enroute from St. Louis.

Memory, however, sometimes plays tricks on me, so I went to the newspaper files and re-read the stories that some of my colleagues wrote of that day's trip. Their accounts coincided with my memory of that day.

What Reporters Wrote

Walker S. Buel, the veteran and able Washington correspondent of the Democratic Cleveland Plain Dealer, wrote that Mr. Roosevelt "received a typical Dixie welcome while he traversed Kentucky" and that "he had a day of brilliant sunshine and bright blue sky after crossing the Ohio River this morning."

James A. Hagerty in the New York Times described the trip through Kentucky as "a cheering journey." Ernest K. Lindley, Mr. Roosevelt's campaign biographer, in the New York Herald Tribune reported that Mr. Roosevelt concluded his Louisville speech that day with the line: "The sun shines bright on my old Kentucky home."

Most convincing of all, however, is the account of Ulric Bell of the Louisville Courier-Journal, one of the most ardent journalistic supporters in the country, then and

now, of Mr. Roosevelt. Mr. Bell wrote that "the swing through the State progressed under smiling skies" and he further reported that "all members of the Roosevelt family expressed delight over the cheerful warmth of Kentucky's greeting."

Graphic substantiation of Mr. Bell's description was found on other pages of the Courier-Journal in photographs showing in the crowds greeting Mr. Roosevelt men in shirtsleeves and without vests and in the weather report showing the temperature was above 62 degrees—and as high as 71 degrees—during the entire time Mr. Roosevelt was in Kentucky, hardly the temperature of a chilly day.

None Reported Any Tears

Not one of these able newspapermen—all friendly toward Mr. Roosevelt—reported the scene of misery he described six years later and not one reported detecting any tears in his eyes. What a crowd of punk reporters we must have been!

But they did report that on that day Mr. Roosevelt at one of his stops told a story of a hitch-hiker whom he said he had met and who claimed to have managed to get from coast to coast in 10 days by holding up a sign which read: "If you don't give me a ride, I'll vote for Hoover."

Today the same story is being told about Mr. Roosevelt, except that now this mythical hitch-hiker is said to have traveled from the Atlantic to the Pacific in four days by threatening to vote again for Mr. Roosevelt.

Arrival of better crop conditions throughout the dust bowl area of the middle west is keeping many farmers at home who might otherwise have come to the northwest to settle, Secretary of State Earl Snell said in explaining a slight decrease in non-resident motorists' permits for the month of June. Snell pointed out that the states worst affected by drought in recent years have contributed fewer than the usual number of non-resident registrants this year, while motorists from other sections have been more numerous than usual.

George Ryan, executive secretary of Oregon Funeral Directors association, was a business visitor in the city Tuesday from Portland.

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