

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
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Washington.—Developments that have taken place and are taking place in the fight precipitated by President Roosevelt's plan to reform the Supreme court of the United States show some phases not hitherto evident in political fights. One of these, I believe, portends important changes in the political alignment in this country. I have reported to you in these columns many times evidences of a growing trend toward a new political alignment and I can say now that nothing which has taken place since Mr. Roosevelt took his New Deal into the White House has given such impetus to this coming realignment as his proposal that congress pass a law giving him authority to name six more justices for the highest court.

The information coming into Washington these days shows very plainly that the Roosevelt court packing proposal is calling forth opposition from both of the major political parties. In other words, the opposition to the President's move is probably nonpartisan to a greater extent than any issue before the American people in the last 50 years. It will be remembered that the late President Wilson's proposal that the United States enter the League of Nations falls within that period of time and while there was both Democratic and Republican opposition to Mr. Wilson's program, it can not be said to have extended among the rank and file of the Democratic party, then in power, to the extent that Mr. Roosevelt's court packing project has permeated the lists of Democratic voters.

I have endeavored to gain the views of many individuals respecting the prospects of a new political alignment but few of the men whose judgment is best politically are willing to make a guess. A considerable number of them say frankly that they are unable to guess. On the other hand, however, there was general agreement that Mr. Roosevelt, by suddenly tossing his court program into the lap of congress, has given momentum to a movement that for some months appears to have been simply marking time.

There are certain facts on this phase of the court battle that appear obvious. They are influential and important as well.

Take for example the fact that Mr. Roosevelt does not have the backing of the so-called solid South for his proposition. Now, the Democratic party for three-quarters of a century has maintained the South as a stronghold of its party. Indeed, in every presidential and congressional election, Republican politicians began calculating what the Democratic strength could be at the maximum by conceding 13 states to the Democrats. How different is the situation, now.

One can go through the lists of representatives in congress from the South and find them rather evenly divided. One will find among Mr. Roosevelt's opponents in this battle numerous senators and representatives who have supported him on every other item of legislation that he has recommended to congress. Now, however, the story is different.

Another interesting phase of the legislative situation is that the bulk of the true and constant liberals in the senate and the house have taken a stand against the proposition of increasing the Supreme court from nine to fifteen members.

These two points do not represent all of the factors opposing the President's plan by any means, but I think it can be definitely said that if Mr. Roosevelt is defeated in his demand at this time, the two factors that I have named will have been the deciding influences.

Having influences like those just mentioned expanding in their scope, portends, as I suggested above, a considerable shake-up in party affiliation of a lasting kind. I do not mean to say that all of the liberals who are opposing the plan and all of the Democrats who are opposing the court-packing will refrain from supporting Mr. Roosevelt on other issues in the future. I do mean to emphasize, however, that some of them will not return to the ranks of Roosevelt stalwarts.

Thus it becomes rather obvious, I think, that the conservative ranks in congress will be increased to the extent that some of the defections, caused by Mr. Roosevelt's court proposal, result in permanent adherence to other philosophies.

So it seems to me that the future holds the probability of a sharp line of demarcation between radicals and conservatives. How they will be identified and what labels they may wear is immaterial. We are due to have a conservative party and a radical party in this country and its shape and character is being molded under the driving fire of the controversy precipitated by Mr.

Roosevelt's demands for six more Supreme court justices.

In a previous article I discussed the bitterness that has permeated the Supreme court controversy. This bitterness is growing and no one can tell how terrific it is going to be. Yet, while the political leaders make charges and countercharges, it seems to me to be almost pathetic that the nine judges of the Supreme court must sit quietly by and say nothing. They can not defend themselves against the criticisms leveled at them by President Roosevelt and his associates.

I have searched the records as far as I have been able and I have yet to find where any justice of the Supreme court of the United States ever has expressed himself publicly on any occasion when the court was assailed. It is a rule that is strictly adhered to by the nine justices whom Mr. Roosevelt has described as "the nine old men." Therefore, we see them as the center of one of the greatest political battles in history, wholly unwilling to besmirch their dignity or their records by answering back.

The recent "fireside chat" by Mr. Roosevelt was replete with innuendoes and inferences that the members of the court are quite incapable of doing their job; that they are living in an age that is dead and, consequently, unable to see things as the rest of the country sees them today. Mr. Roosevelt's speech at the victory dinner of the Democrats was purely politics and his fireside chat in explanation of his court program was 90 per cent politics. But the Supreme court is not in politics. It strikes me as being almost a tragedy that these "nine old men" can not defend their honor and their record after a lifetime of service to the American people.

I do not take much stock in the many tirades that have filled the air and columns upon columns of newspaper space that the present justices are incapable of doing their job. There is so much untruth, so many unwarranted conclusions in those tirades that it amounts to a gigantic campaign that will mislead the people of the nation. Assuming that some of the justices are too old to do their job and assuming further that some of them may be too conservative to deal with present day problems, it yet seems to me to be an indisputable fact that there is nothing in life that can take the place of experience and the lessons thus learned.

While Mr. Roosevelt was taking a vacation in the warm sunshine of Georgia, the case in behalf of the court packing proposition was ably presented to the senate committee on the judiciary. His spokesmen were Attorney General Cummings and Assistant Attorney General Robert Jackson. They did their job well. They met some of the most vicious questions from committee members that I have ever heard and they met them with a smile. True, opponents of the program among those senators were not satisfied at all with the explanations advanced by the President's spokesmen. That fact, however, does not take away from the two witnesses the credit that is due them.

And thus for the first time we have what must be regarded as official arguments. I mean these arguments are to be distinguished from fireside chats and political speeches concerning the merits of the President's plan. Likewise, for the first time we have a frank admission that Mr. Roosevelt's purpose in asking congress to give him authority for appointing six additional judges is to give him men on that court who will see present day problems as the President sees them.

In view of Mr. Jackson's statements to the committee, we can look back upon some of the speeches made by New Deal spokesmen some months ago and can realize from them and present developments that Mr. Roosevelt had the general purpose of packing the court in mind for some months. This circumstance seems to explain also why the President and his advisors refused to accept the recommendation of Prof. Raymond Moley in 1934. At that time, Professor Moley, a member, if not the number one man, of the Brain Trust, urgently pressed for the New Dealers to go to the country with two constitutional amendments. He wanted the people of the country to understand that these amendments would permit enactment of certain types of laws. He thought that the congressional elections of 1934 was the time to present the questions to the voters. It must be said that Professor Moley's proposition was one of the fairest and soundest to be made. It is a method prescribed by the Constitution itself.

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OREGON STATE NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Brief Resume of Happenings of the Week Collected for Our Readers

Ashland—A W. P. A. project launched in Jackson county is aimed at the eradication of diseased fruit trees for the protection of good orchards.

Redland—A gold wedding ring lost 62 years ago by Mrs. George Spees of Oregon City, now deceased, has been found in a mole hill on the old Spees homestead at Redland.

Enterprise—A runaway team of horses skidding as they plunged down hill came to a stop in the back room of C. L. West's home and demolished a part of the house.

Albany—Directors of the chamber of commerce have started a campaign to cleanse and paint the city to improve its appearance for two conventions scheduled to be held this year.

Vale—Another old landmark here is giving way to progress. The old frame building, known as the Kelly building, is falling before the hammer and crowbar. It was built in 1900.

Salem—The state board of control began work on a means of supplementing the \$54,500 legislative grant with federal assistance on the Eastern Oregon tuberculosis hospital at The Dalles.

Empire—By a margin of 16 votes citizens of Empire have turned down the \$18,000 bond issue proposed for a new grade school building. Proponents of the measure say they will call another election soon.

Fort Stevens—An additional allotment of \$20,000 has been received by the quartermaster here to carry on the federal projects in connection with the repairs to buildings, roads and utilities at the post. This allotment will carry on the work until July 1.

Lebanon—Dates for Lebanon's annual strawberry fair have been announced as June 4 and 5 for this year. T. W. Munyan heads the fair board. From the large number of his committeemen, Munyan will select a small group to aid him in his executive duties.

Baker—Lester Moncrief, formerly of region 6 of the forest service, has been appointed supervisor of Whitman national forest, succeeding Fred W. Furst, who was transferred to Wisconsin several months ago. Moncrief was supervisor of the Ochoco national forest with headquarters at Prineville until a year ago.

Bend—Deschutes Geology club members at a meeting here extended to the Geological Society of the Oregon Country, with headquarters in Portland, an invitation to visit the "volcanic land" of Central Oregon this coming field season. The invitation was proposed by E. C. Alford, pastor-geologist and founder of the Bend club, oldest of its kind in Oregon.

Bandon—Following conferences with state planning board members in Portland, two representatives of Bandon left last week for Washington, D. C., in the hope of aiding Oregon congressmen secure \$300,000 in federal money to aid in rebuilding the burned city. The delegates are L. D. Felsheim, local publisher, and Gilbert E. Gable, rehabilitation commissioner. They will ask \$300,000 to be used in replacing streets, sewers and other public utilities destroyed by the fire of September 26, 1936.

SET CONVENTION DATES
La Grande—La Grande will be host to the Golden jubilee summer convention of the Oregon Newspaper Publishers association on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 17, 18, and 19. La Grande was awarded the convention at the recent winter sessions of the organization, but dates were not decided at that time. Other arrangements will get under way shortly, with President Hugh McElvra of Forest Grove, expected soon to appoint convention committees.

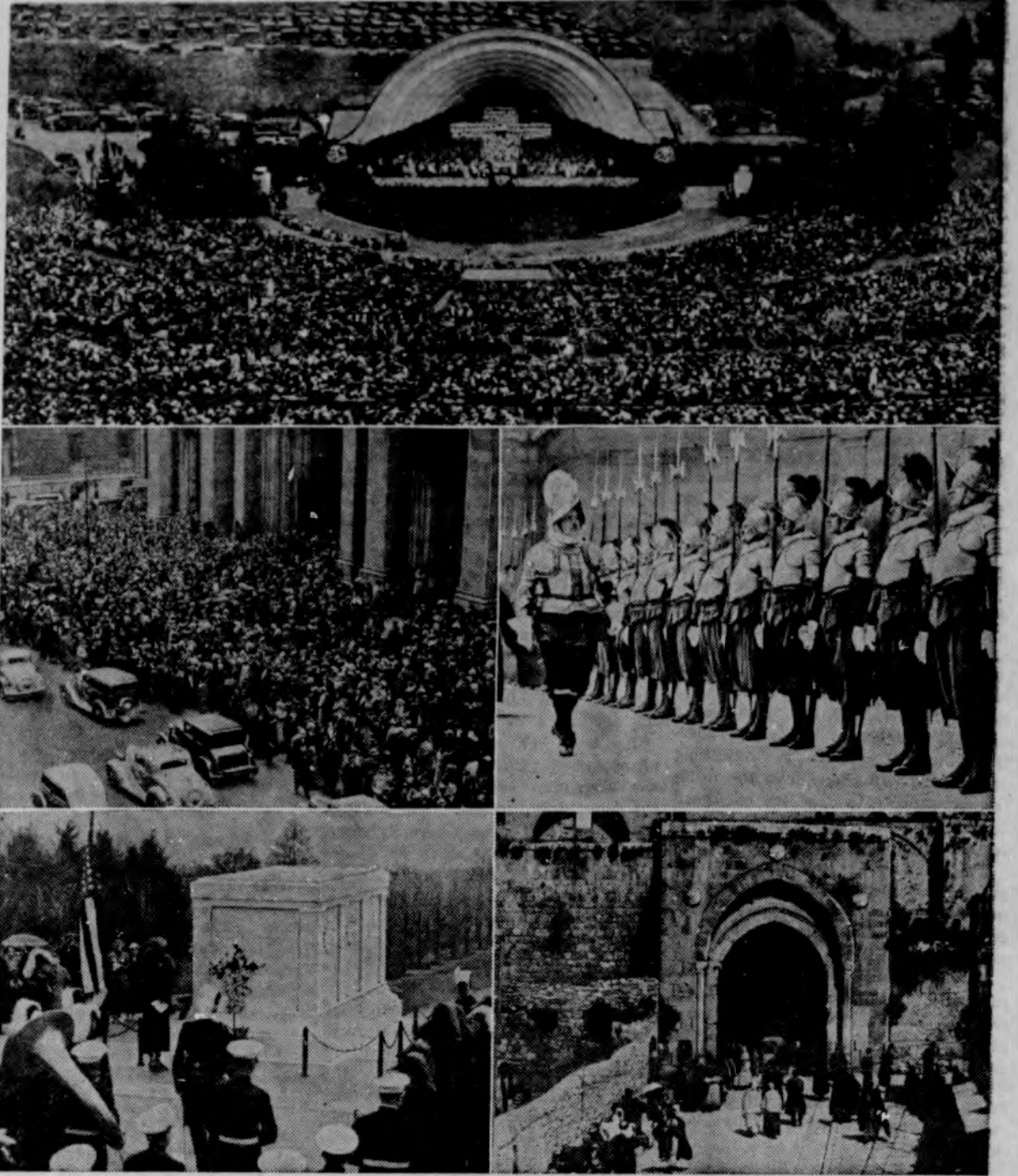
NEW CAVE FOUND
Grants Pass—Discovery of a new cave which rivals the Oregon Caves for the limited extent it has been explored has been announced by officials of the Beaver Portland Cement company. It has been a matter of common knowledge and conjecture here for two weeks.

The cave is at the Marble mountain quarry south of Grants Pass. Details of the find have been closely guarded, the entrance being blocked up immediately after a blast uncovered it. Electric lights are being installed, according to M. F. Muirhead of Medford, cement company manager.

Salem—Early construction of a new library building for Willamette university has been authorized by the trustees. The building with equipment, and minor improvements to other buildings is to cost not to exceed \$100,000.

Tillamook—The first lot of payment checks relative to the agricultural conservation program for 1936 have arrived at Tillamook. The total amount approximates \$4500 and represents about 30 per cent of the total number to be received.

Christian World Celebrates Easter



The Easter spirit finds its way everywhere. Top photograph shows the huge California sunrise service, an annual observance. Left center picture shows a typical Easter church crowd on New York's Fifth avenue. At right center are members of the ancient Swiss Guard at the Vatican in Rome, where they play an important part in Easter ceremonies. Lower left photo shows Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt placing a wreath on the Unknown Soldier's tomb at Washington last Easter morning. Ancient Jerusalem is pictured in its unchanging atmosphere at the right.

Easter Parade Features Veils, Lacy Neckwear

By CHERIE NICHOLAS

Veils in all manner of treatment and lacy, frilly lingerie neckwear with the ultra feminine look is the big news for spring. And more news—many of the smart hats are worn far back on the head. See the tiny off-the-face cap (cap-hats are "it" in Paris) here pictured. Three American beauty roses are posed atop this cap of navy felt. The



The Splendor of Lilies...

Oh, rare as the splendor of lilies,
And sweet as the violet's breath,
Comes the jubilant morning of Easter,
The triumph of Life over Death;
And fresh from the earth's quickened bosom
Full baskets of flowers we bring,
And scatter their satin soft petals
To carpet a path for our King.

In the countless green blades of the meadow,
The sheen of the daffodil's gold,
In the tremulous blue on the mountains,
The opaline mist on the wold,
In the tinkle of brooks through the pasture,
The river's strong sweep to the sea,
Are signs of the day that is hastening
In gladness to you and to me!

Oh, dawn in thy splendor of lilies,
Thy fluttering violet breath,
Oh, jubilant morning of Easter,
Thou triumph of Life over Death!
Then fresh from the earth's quickened bosom
Full baskets of flowers we bring,
And scatter their satin soft petals
To carpet a path for our King!

—Margaret E. Sangster

Hosanna!



Little Bernard McNeill, young member of the choir at St. Vincent of Ferrer's church, New York, joins his fellow singers in greeting the Easter dawn.

From Lily Farm



Two million Easter lilies like this come annually from the largest lily farm in America, located at Spring Valley, N. Y. Bulbs are imported from Japan.