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How About Us?

The Congressional Record recently carried a speech by Senator Allen J. Ellender of Louisiana in which he mentioned among other things the voting habits of the people of Martinique, one of the Windward Islands. The senator quoted the Intelligence Digest to the effect that bad conditions in that somewhat benighted isle are mostly due to the inhabitants' disinterest in politics. Less than forty per cent of the voters take the trouble to go to the polls, said he.

AT THIS distance, the natural observation is: "What can such dumb people expect? Don't even vote when they have a chance."

Such apathy does seem hard to understand but before we condemn the people of Martinique let's take a look at our own record.

Right here in Jackson county where, we like to think, dwell the most enlightened people in the world, the right of franchise is passed up by around 22 per cent of those eligible.

ACCORDING to figures published this week, about 27,000 have registered out of a population of some 57,000. Allowing for 21,500 too young to vote, and adding these to the number of eligibles who have registered we find something like 8,000 to 8,500 residents still unregistered.

"Pretty dumb, the people of Martinique," did we say? How about us?—E.C.F.

Pipeline Pipedreams

The Oregonian recently commented editorially on plans to pipe natural gas and petroleum from Canadian fields to the Pacific Northwest and quoted a memorandum inserted in the Congressional Record by Senator Wayne L. Morse in which the latter pointed out that Oregon and Washington should have Canadian oil, as well as natural gas, by pipeline.

SUCH a line, according to the memorandum, could "come into the United States near the Washington-Idaho line, thence southward, passing near Spokane to the Seattle-Tacoma area with the line extending south to Portland. Thus, the line would provide oil for the refinery at Spokane, and provide a source of oil for new refineries to be built in the Seattle-Tacoma and Portland areas which afford ideal refinery location in that plants could be built on deep water for ocean transportation but located 50 to 100 miles from the Pacific shoreline."

The memorandum, said The Oregonian, does not take note of the fact that contracts were let in December for the construction of an \$80,000,000 pipeline along an all-Canadian route from Edmonton to Vancouver, B. C., thus apparently shutting out the Northwest states.

The Oregonian went on to say that producers now in the Portland market have contemplated piping crude either from Canada or from the new-found fields in Montana. "The Alberta and Montana fields, the potentialities of which are just becoming known, may well make the Pacific Northwest independent of California oil reserves within the next few years," the Portland newspaper added.

RUMOR circulating recently in the Medford region has it that a pipe line is to be built through this section. Where the line is supposed to go and by whom it is to be built are details which those claiming to be "in the know" are unable or unwilling to supply.

One version is that the line is to run from Crescent City on the coast and supply this territory with gasoline from tanker ships.

Though the rumors have seemed pretty far on the fantastic side, the Mail Tribune tried to find someone that would admit having definite information on the subject. Thus far the pipeline seems to be mostly a "pipedream."—E.C.F.

Fugitive Fathers

The "fugitive father" law, enacted at the last session of the Oregon legislature to make possible the extradition of men who flee to other states to escape supporting their children, is headed for its first test in this part of the state.

A JOSEPHINE county woman who obtained a divorce from her husband there in 1948, was awarded the custody of a minor child and \$50 a month for the child's support. In a complaint filed last week she alleges that the former husband is now \$550 in arrears in the support payments and she asks that he be extradited from his present home in Crescent City, Calif., and made to show cause why he should not be held in contempt of court.

Section 5 of the new law provides that defendants in desertion or non-support cases may be extradited from states where there is reciprocal legislation. California has such an agreement with Oregon and it is too bad that extradition cannot be had in all non-support cases, regardless of to what state the husband may flee.

WE ARE not conversant with the details of the Grants Pass complaint, said to be the first under the "fugitive father" law to be filed in either Josephine or Jackson counties, but the case will be watched with interest for there have been too many instances where fathers have skipped out leaving families oftentimes to become public wards.—E.C.F.

WEATHER

By United Press

Northern California: Fair Thursday and Friday except cloudy extreme north Friday; local coastal fog.

The National Board of Fire

Underwriters says that, though matches and cigarettes start three out of every 10 fires, the really damaging blazes originate in household trash.

Crosstown

By Roland Coe



"Are you actually charging such a price for steak? I thought my wife was exaggerating."

Matter of Fact

By Joseph and Stewart Altop

TRUMAN'S MEMO TO TRUMAN

Washington — As readers of that curious book, "Mr. President," must be aware, one of Harry S. Truman's most strongly marked habits is composing memoranda from himself to himself. His purpose is to clarify his views on the questions considered by setting them down on paper in logical order. After he has labored through a long and lonely evening on one of these compositions, which he commonly writes in longhand, he has made up his mind and plainly charted his future course.

It can now be disclosed on undoubted authority that the President's decision not to run again was first embodied in one of these memoranda from himself to himself, which he wrote about two years ago. The paper, communicated only to the President's closest intimates, gave a long series of reasons against seeking a third term and offered none in favor. And ever since setting up this guidepost for himself, the President has followed it without deviation, except for one brief period of doubt.

This interlude of uncertainty, as was natural, occurred this winter when the deadline of disclosure was approaching. In January, Truman had urged Gov. Adlai E. Stevenson of Illinois to become an active candidate, and had tentatively promised Stevenson White House support. Stevenson's refusal to declare himself had disappointed and irritated Truman. He was and is mortally opposed to the candidacy of Sen. Estes Kefauver. He considers that his friend, Sen. Robert Kerr, is unfortunately disqualified from being Democratic standard-bearer. And because of the threat of a change in American foreign policy, the President further believes that the election of Sen. Robert A. Taft will be a national disaster.

WITH Stevenson reluctant to seek the Democratic nomination, with Taft then given by far the best chance to get the nomination of the Republicans, and with no other suitable Democratic candidate in sight, the President wavered from his former determination for a few weeks. But even though he thought he could beat Taft if he ran, he ended by deciding not to try it. And this decision was reached some time before New Hampshire, Minnesota and New Jersey so sharply altered the Ohio Senator's prospects.

It is an interesting commentary on Truman's power to keep his own counsel that the great majority of his personal entourage did not have an inkling of the finality of the President's choice, while even those who were aware the President had chosen did not think he would make his announcement last Saturday evening. Equally, the reasons for not running again, which the President listed back in 1950, are still of interest as revealing the peculiar workings of his mind.

Naturally, in view of the date, these reasons did not include the corruption issue, the candidacy of General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, the decline in the President's personal popularity, or any of the other current factors which are supposed to have influenced Truman. More surprisingly, the President's memorandum is understood to have placed very little emphasis indeed on his own age. Mrs. Truman's strong desire to leave the White House, or any of the other personal considerations which he must surely have weighed carefully.

INSTEAD, outwardly the President, though he seems so down-to-earth and anti-theoretical, his theory of the Presidency was what he most stressed in his paper. Although he was elected when Franklin Roosevelt was running for his fourth term, Truman dislikes the whole notion of individual indispensability. He personally favored the

amendment limiting all Presidents to two terms hereafter. And he has even told a few of those close to him that he would like to see a President's service restricted to a single term of six years—"Two years to get his feet on the ground," as he is reported to have said, and then "four more years to get his job done."

Besides his objection to any man continuing too long in the White House, it is further understood that the President included in the paper another favorite private theory. In brief, he is convinced that great political changes occur in surging waves, which rise and ebb with an inevitable regularity. He thinks further that the long wave which started with the election of Roosevelt in 1932 is now plainly on the ebb. And this ebb, he believes, will almost inevitably prevent immediate acceptance of his Fair Deal program, although he never ceases to predict that all its objectives will be met in the end.

Not thinking that he ought to run again, therefore, and in addition expecting four years of frustration to be the reward of reelection, the President quietly reached the decision which he has now revealed. The whole episode, with its peculiar timing and characteristic touches, only reinforces the impression that there is a good deal more to Harry Truman than the cocky little man who meets the eye at a press conference.

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COMMUNICATIONS

Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer although under certain circumstances the use of a pen name or initials for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with a view to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.

Grobspeaks
To The Editor: Replying to Mrs. George W. Atkins concerning the many cream colored thick-billed birds, that she and others have asked about. The Mail Tribune commented shortly ago that the feathered migrants are undoubtedly the evening grobspeak. They seem to be making an unusually long stay in and around the pear capital. Though they are seed eaters, they go for fruit some.

They are tame birds like the robin and are gregarious but not so much so as the blackbird with its synchronized flight gyrations so hard to understand. But unlike the robin who will nest in a nearby rosebush or over the porch door, the grobspeak seeks the lonely forest habitat. Your writer was fortunate to get the grobspeak's evening song on sound tape. It was near Bission Creek some 30 miles north of Medford. The evening sun highlighted the colors of the feathered songster, truly a fine singer, perched as usual atop a tall fir.

The robin, too, on occasion. A record was obtained of his singing that was highlighted by an obligate like echo against a backdrop of dense forest on the shore of Flathead lake in Montana.

Protesting my presence there, or having no yen for singing, that small reporter of the wood, a pine squirrel had to get in his scolding nicker's worth, the big 25-inch speaker used as a mike, picking up every sound far and near, just one of the many wonders of the sound catcher.

F. J. Clifford,
1319 South Stage Road
Medford, Ore.

On Sportsman's Conduct

To The Editor: A few comments on Mr. M. M. M.'s letter to the Editor on April 1: I'm in full agreement on taking off the hunting cap to the hunter who consistently gets doves, they're not "sitting ducks". But what have you when you get the little critter? I'm in favor of eating whatever

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Ho! Hum! Nothing much to do but twiddle our fingers and wait till the final returns come in from Wisconsin and Nebraska. Second, and PLEASANTER, thought:

It's better to be waiting for news of what the people have done on their own account than to be hanging around waiting to see WHAT THE POLITICIANS HAVE HANDED US.

THE Internal revenue bureau is making a drive on non-tax-paying racketeers. It has collected 80 million dollars and thinks it has just got started. It is working on a list that contains 37,000 names, and says that so far seven out of every 10 racketeers checked have been found in arrears in their taxes.

IS THAT surprising?

Heck, NO! That's why these rackets pay so well. ANYBODY could make money if he didn't have to pay taxes.

Incidentally, collections so far have averaged \$18,652 per racketeer tried out in the income tax pan. The biggest one was \$3,334, 805 levied against a guy in Costa Mesa, Calif.

He was doing right well for himself till the tax collectors caught up with him, wasn't he?

NASTY thought:

All these rackets are AGAINST THE LAW. That's why they pay off so fabulously. The fact that they're against the law cuts down the competition and the further fact that in general they don't pay taxes has added fantastically to the profit margin.

No wonder they're gold mines.

ANOTHER nasty thought:

IF the internal revenue bureau (which, by the way, hasn't been wholly free from racketeering itself) can catch these illegal racketeers and fry out of them the taxes they should have paid, WHY CAN'T OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS CATCH THEM AND CLAP THEM IN JAIL AND THUS PUT A STOP TO THEIR ILLEGAL OPERATIONS?

That IS a nasty one. The deeper into it you go the smellier it gets.

WHAT is a racket?

I expect a lot of us think of a racket as GAMBLING—which, in its various forms, is forbidden in most of our states except Nevada. Is it CERTAINLY forbidden in Oregon, starting in our state constitution and going clear on down through our state laws and our municipal ordinances.

Why do we look the other way when gambling is permitted to exist?

I expect that's because we LIKE TO GAMBLE A BIT OURSELVES and don't want the officers of the law getting too nosy.

WAIT a minute.

There are nastier, viler rackets than gambling. Narcotics peddling, for example. Peddling of narcotics is almost universally forbidden by law. But it's profitable. Very, VERY profitable. Largely because the fact that it is forbidden by law cuts down competition and AVOIDS TAXES.

So, you see, unscrupulous people who are looking for a fast buck go into it.

I kill and though a sporting match for any man, the dove is not noted for its delectability. Does that help of explanation Mr. M. M. M.'s quotation?

Now, how about the sportsman, so called, who has a chance to knock over a "chink" while supposedly dove hunting and gets away with so doing? Or haven't you noticed the decline of the pheasant population shortly after dove season opens? They're not all hiding sir! I'm not a sentimentalist but I say let's close the dove season entirely.

Back to the business at hand. I'm for more and better sportsmen and sportswomen. And I do mean better.

As for people with the point of view of Mr. Abbott, let us hope they are in the minority. This country has been built and defended by red-blooded men and women who knew how to handle fire-arms. What better way than the way of the sportsman to preserve this know-how and spirit!

One more word: Our conduct as sportsmen has possibly influenced the opinion of Mr. Abbott. We know what is right, let's do it!

Another War II vet whose slogan is "don't let old field and stream sports die."

W. W. H.
(Name on File)

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Time Thought Near For Easing Tension In World Affairs

By PHIL NEWSOM

United Press Foreign Analyst
We can't be overly optimistic yet but perhaps—just perhaps, we are coming into a time of easing world tensions.

There have been a number of straws in the wind.

One, of course, comes from Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's report that the military tide now is flowing toward the West.

Another favorable straw comes from none other than Russia's Josef Stalin.

He said he didn't believe another world war was any closer now than it was two or three years ago, small comfort, except that if Russia didn't want to start a fight then, there doesn't seem any more reason for her to do so now.

There have been other hopeful indications, too. An example is Russia's appar-

ently changed viewpoint toward Germany. A year ago she was saying that Russia would not tolerate a rearmament Western Germany and that war was sure to result. Today she has reversed her position completely, and advocates not only a German army but a unified Germany as well.

Of course, her changed attitude toward Germany is for her own reasons, foremost of which is believed her hope to prevent West German participation in a European army.

Regarded as Good
But many regard even that as good, inasmuch as it would seem to be Russian recognition of Western Europe's growing power and of the fact that Russia no longer has it all her own way militarily on the continent of Europe.

On the other side of the world, the tough U.S. policy toward Formosa seems to be paying off.

Not even the Chinese Nationalists seem to fear an invasion of Formosa by the Reds as they did only a few months ago. One reason is the strong stand of the U.S. Seventh Fleet in defense of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's island, and another is the increased flow of weapons and supplies to the beleaguered Nationalist forces.

Taft Hopes To Have 100 Delegates Lined Up By End of Month

By LYLE C. WILSON

Washington—(U.P.)—Sen. Robert A. Taft's managers expect to have 200 or more Republican national convention delegates actually chosen and friendly to or frozen for the candidate by the end of this month.

A minimum nominating majority would be 603 convention votes.

Taft now counts 100 delegates already chosen for him: 40 for Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower; 25 for Harold E. Stassen; and six for Gov. Earl Warren of California.

Michigan, Iowa and Idaho select full or partial delegate slates this week. Taft expects to pick up strength in all, although not 100 per cent. He got four more delegates in Tennessee Wednesday.

Five more state presidential primaries are scheduled for April—Illinois, April 8; New Jersey, April 15; Pennsylvania and New York April 22; Massachusetts, April 29.

Strongest in Illinois
Taft is strongest in Illinois where 60 delegates are to be chosen. He opposes Stassen there. His chances are slim in New Jersey which will choose 38 delegates. Taft entered the New Jersey delegate contest but sought to withdraw when Gov. Alfred E. Driscoll endorsed Eisenhower. The time limit had expired and his withdrawal was not honored, although Taft now refuses to acknowledge the contest. Stassen and Eisenhower are in that one, too.

Pennsylvania will have 70 delegates. A check there in early spring indicated strong Taft support as well as a lot of enthusiasm for Ike. Taft's reverse in New Hampshire and Eisenhower's written triumph in Minnesota cooled the feeling for the

ple who are looking for a fast buck go into it.

HERE'S the nastiest thought of all:

Wherever rackets are permitted to flourish in a BIG way, you can be practically certain that it's because somebody who ought to be enforcing the law is GETTING PAID FOR NOT ENFORCING THE LAW.

That thought HURTS.

I THINK these thoughts I've been putting onto paper are PROPER thoughts because if all of us voters voted as thoughtfully, as intelligently, as PRAYERFULLY as we should we could get the kind of government that would put an end to these evils such as racketeering.

What do YOU think about it?

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Flight o' Time

Medford and Jackson County history from the files of the Mail Tribune 10, 20, 30 and 40 years' ago.

10 YEARS AGO

April 3, 1942
(It was Friday)
Clarence Edwards, Medford, returns home from Midway island after being evacuated following Japanese attack.

From Arthur Perry's Ye Smudge Pot column: The burg now boasts three horse and buggy travellers. So far they have not had a triple crash at a busy corner. The drivers all say it is cheaper than gasoline and better than walking.

20 YEARS AGO

April 3, 1922
(It was Sunday)
Medford school board votes to cut District 49 operating expenses by some \$50,000.

Large crew of workmen starts construction of interior of new Jackson county courthouse at Main street and Oakdale avenue.

30 YEARS AGO

April 3, 1922
(It was Monday)
Jackson county realtors report property values in Jacksonville have doubled since early 1921.

Government sources indicate that all appropriations including funds for Crater Lake National park roads may be "slashed to the bone."

40 YEARS AGO

April 3, 1912
(It was Wednesday)
Rogue valley property owners meet to form organization favoring "a more equitable distribution of taxes."

All pear orchardists in Medford area report trees bearing full bloom.

Hearing Continues In Crash of Plane

Seattle—(U.P.)—Civil Aeronautics board hearing into the crash of a Korean airlift plane which resulted in the deaths of 36 persons last Jan. 19 continued here Thursday.

E. S. Cox, flight manager for Northwest airlines, told the board Wednesday that one of the plane's four engines quit an hour before it approached the field at Sandspit, B.C., then suddenly pulled up and crashed into the sea.

Cox said the pilot apparently had less than 30 seconds to follow regular procedures in "ditching" the aircraft. The pilot must have touched down on the airstrip and then taken off again because he feared the plane would not stop before it reached the end of the runway, he said.

Early End Expected On Television Ban

Chicago—(U.P.)—The chairman of the Federal Communications Commission predicts that the government's ban on new television stations will be lifted within two weeks.

Paul A. Walker said a three-month period to permit filing of new applications will follow the lifting of the ban. He said an estimated 1,000 new applications would be filed.

The FCC's "freeze" on television has been in effect three and a half years.