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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 11, 1945
(Mrs. W. C. Rookard, program chairman for Medford Garden club, announces plans for observation of Arbor day on April 22.)

20 YEARS AGO
April 11, 1935
(Ed M. White, Medford, named to national committee on real estate taxation.)

30 YEARS AGO
April 11, 1925
(Medford Lions club will be presented a charter May 9, Frank Neer, district governor for Oregon, has announced.)

40 YEARS AGO
April 11, 1915
(The Ashland Business Men's association was organized last Friday evening with over 40 members.)

What's the Answer?
(Can You Get 4 of the 7?)
Copr. 1955, Editorial Research Report

1. Secretary of State Dulles says the threat of war today is greater from Russia or China, or equally from each?
2. Many auto insurance companies give lower rates to the youngsters who've passed a high school driver course than to those who haven't; right or wrong?
3. Average retail prices over the U.S. in the last three months dropped or rose considerably, or stayed about the same?
4. In the absence of a new farm law this year, farm price supports next year go automatically to 75, 75-90, 82 1/2-90, or 90 percent or parity?
5. The Negev is an area between Israel and Egypt, Israel and Jordan, or Egypt and Jordan?
6. Chances of a hole in one on a short hole for an expert golfer are computed to be about one in 85, 850, 8,500 or 85,000?
7. Penguins do or don't fly?
The Answers: 1. From China. 2. Right. 3. Stayed about the same. 4. To 75-90 per cent. 5. All correct. 6. About one in 8,500. 7. Don't.

The Income Tax Plan

State Rep. Al Littrell has sent us an interesting breakdown of how the proposed new income tax law would affect taxpayers of Oregon.

The bill, key to the tax program passed recently by the House and now being studied by the Senate's tax committee, is meeting opposition in the upper body because many Senators feel it would not raise enough money to meet the state's prospective deficit.

IN the first place, the whole proposed tax program is predicated on a number of assumptions: that the budget can be cut so much, that revenues will attain such-and-such a level, and so on.

One of these assumptions is that a cigarette tax, part of the tax "package," will not be referred to a vote of the people as it has been on several occasions in the past. It is also assumed that the income tax hike itself will not be referred—a somewhat shaky assumption at best.

NOW, to the income tax proposal itself. It would raise an estimated \$10,400,000 more per year than is raised by the present income tax. It would lower personal exemptions and dependency credits from \$600 to \$500. It would change the tax rates to a minimum of 2 per cent on the first \$500 earned and up to 9 per cent on all income over \$10,000 annually.

A table prepared by the research section of the state tax commission applies these changes to various income levels for a hypothetical individual who files a joint return and has one dependent.

There is no state or federal income tax for this individual up to the \$2,000-per-year income level.

At the \$3,000 level, however, he now pays about \$177 in federal tax and \$14 in state tax, a total of some \$192. Under the new proposal he would pay \$1 less federal income tax, \$7 more state income tax, for a net increase of \$5, or 2.7 per cent. (Increase in state tax would amount to 45.1 per cent.)

At the \$5,000 income level, the total tax is now \$585. The new proposal would boost the total to \$607, a net increase of \$22, and a percentage gain of 3.5 per cent overall (or a hike in state tax of 47.5 per cent).

At the \$10,000 level, present total tax is \$1,673. The new tax would lift this total (including state and federal) to \$1,726, a decrease of \$15 in federal tax, an increase of \$67 in state tax, for a net increase of \$52. The percentage increase is 30.8 per cent for state tax, and an over-all increase of 3.1 per cent.

GOING on up, to the \$100,000 level, the net increase amounts to \$119, a 12.2 per cent change in the state tax, but only a .2 per cent change in the overall total, making it \$52,716 instead of \$52,597 as at present.

This proposal squeaked through the House with a margin of only one vote. The balloting was 31 for, 27 against, but the measure needed the 31 pro votes to give it a constitutional majority of the 60 house votes.—E.A.

What Alternative?

Whether we like it or don't, the legislature is heading for some sort of plan such as outlined above. It is full of loopholes and weak spots, but the legislature has not yet shown any disposition to formulate a sounder program.

It is generally admitted (as Sen. Lee Ohmart pointed out during a recent talk in Medford) that it is a "stop-gap" program — one to keep the state theoretically solvent, without regard to a basically sound program, until it is possible to revamp the system with some hope of getting a plan approved by the voters.

ABOUT the only alternative which has been put forward so far is a sales tax, in one form or another. But it appears evident that this legislature is not disposed to pass one, for a variety of reasons. (One legislator writes, "Although I am not in favor of this (the income tax) program, as I prefer a sales tax, under the circumstances it looks like the best we are going to be able to do.")

Many legislators are pleased that two sales tax bills are being studied by legislative committees, even if there is no chance of getting them approved. This seemingly odd attitude is caused by the fact that they want to see a "good" sales tax plan drawn up, studied and ready, in case a group of voters takes it upon itself to initiate a sales tax proposal.

MANY OF them believe that sales tax proposals in the past have been defeated by the voters because they have lacked some of the equalizing features that make them popular (or at least accepted) forms of taxation in the 30-odd other states where they are in use.

They believe that a sales tax which exempts food, medicines, drugs and certain other necessities (including lodging and rent), would receive enthusiastic support from the voters, including labor and farm groups which have in the past led in the fight to defeat sales taxes.

IN ANY event, the problem is far from solved. On Feb. 28, in this space, we said:

There is a lack of direction and unity in the present legislature. There is tension and apprehension, for no matter what solution they come up with to solve the problem of taxes and finances, their decisions are subject to reversal by the voters. Their labors may go for nothing, and the state may suffer seriously as a result. We would not be too surprised to see a special election or a special session, or both, within the year, unless the legislators come up with something now unforeseen.

Nothing has happened in the past six weeks to cause us to change that estimate.—E.A.

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

SOME UGLY ALGEBRA

Saigon, Indo-China—The real key to the situation in this unhappy country is a political equation that a sixth grader could solve.

On one side of this equation are three relatively knowable factors: the condition of the Vietnamese national army, and the condition of Viet Minh power in the North. On the other side is the eternal unknown, the future.

Work out the three knowable factors. Unless all the experts are wrong about these factors, the result equals eventual Viet Minh victory here in Southern Indochina, which in turn will equal a general catastrophe in Southern Asia.

The trouble in the countryside is simple. President Ngo Dinh Diem is a notably bad administrator. He has also been continuously and perhaps inescapably preoccupied with the struggle for personal power in Saigon. Thus he has left an almost complete administrative vacuum in the provinces.

The ruthless and well organized Communist apparatus has been quick to send its cadres into this vacuum. In the region of the great rubber estate over towards the Cambodian border, for instance, military measures prevented Viet Minh infiltration until Geneva ended the fighting. But now the Viet Minh cadres have poured in and taken over the villages.

Again, the important province of Nha Trang has always been predominantly Nationalist rather than Communist. But in recent months great numbers of Viet Minh cadres—one unhappy local official guesses as many as 2,000—have quietly moved into Nha Trang from the neighboring Communist stronghold of Quang Hai. And now Nha Trang is being taken over too.

In the feudal domains of the military regiments, to be sure, infiltrating Viet Minh cadres still get short shrift. But when the heat is really on, the set leaders who are now fighting President Diem, will surely tend to make the same personal deals with the Viet Minh that the comparable Chinese warlords made with the Chinese Communists.

IN THE much larger area of Southern Indochina not under set control, meanwhile, between 60 and 70 per cent of the villages are already subject to strong Viet Minh influence, according to estimates from American official sources. French estimates, based on more detailed knowledge, give the Viet Minh probable control of a fantastic 70 to 90 per cent of the villages.

Today, to be sure, the simple people of Viet Nam are desperately war weary. If a strong government could be created in Saigon by some unforeseen miracle war weariness would help to take the villages away from the Viet Minh. But unless all signs deceive, Ho Chi Minh will shortly be able to raise the Indochinese countryside against the Saigon government by the simple act of sending his secret couriers across the 17th parallel.

In other words, Ho Chi Minh will be able to recreate in the South the same conditions that defeated the strong French army in Tonkin. In that nightmare war, the French forces held only the towns and strong points and even used the roads at their peril. And because most of the French forces were always tied down guarding their own rear against a hostile countryside, there were never enough French troops left over to confront the main body of Viet Minh regulars.

Such is the first factor of our equation which in turn confers a rather lurid importance on the second factor, the Vietnamese national army. This army is now disorganized, demoralized and suffering a hemorrhage of desertions. Retraining and reorganization have just been started by Lt. Gen. John W. O'Daniel's Franco-American "Trim" group. But of the six planned Vietnamese divisions, only three will have received serious retraining by next year. The other three will merely get 10 days apiece of "indoctrination." And three fair and three dubious divisions are no force to carry the burden the French carried in the Tonkin Delta.

Finally, the equation's third factor, the power of the Viet Minh in the North, has been growing steadily. As predicted earlier by this reporter, the intelligence experts have had to raise their forecasts, giving Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap a full 20 divisions by the spring of 1955.

HOW then does this equation work out. Obviously the first part of the answer is that the Viet Minh would prefer to take Southern Indochina by peaceful means either at the Geneva-required election or the formation of a "Government of National Union" in Saigon. But if they cannot take the South peacefully, yet have con-

trol of the Southern countryside, then the Viet Minh will surely order the guerrillas into action. They will filter a few guerrilla-disguised small units of regulars into the South, both to intimidate any hesitant villages and to lead the guerrilla effort. And they will hold the balance of their regulars, say seven divisions, in reserve to discourage French or American intervention.

In these circumstances, intervention with large ground forces will be remarkably unattractive. In these circumstances, intervention with the air-sea mobile striking force Secretary Dulles is always talking about, will be about as useful as taking a bludgeon to a swarm of wasps. But in these circumstances, if there is no effective intervention to save Southern Indochina, the Vietnamese national army will not be able to hold out for more than three months.

This estimate of the Vietnamese army's future capability against the kind of insidious Viet Minh attack that is now generally foreseen, has been officially forwarded to Washington and Paris by the responsible American and French officers. It is probably an optimistic estimate. At any rate, it is the final answer of this Indochinese equation, which can make a mockery of Geneva, turn the Manila pact into a bitterly bad joke, and seal the fate of all South Asia.

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In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

The rich, fat, productive, practical food basket that is the Imperial valley and its exotic and glamorous neighbor, the Coachella valley, provide an interesting climax for a period of wandering in the higher deserts of the Southwest.

In this particular spring, it provides some interesting and pleasant climatic contrasts. It was a nippy ten above in Reno. It was a crisp 15 above in Sante Fe. It was invigoratingly cool in Albuquerque. It SNOWED in El Paso—a measurable inch of the stuff. Tucson was warm, but not too warm.

In the Imperial and Coachella valleys, where the mercury climbs to 120 in the summer (in the shade, that is) it is H-O-T! One pants and sweats. The men wander around in sleeveless shirts and walking shorts. Men and women alike have a rich mahogany tan.

Down here, the sun really gets results.

THESE valleys have an interesting geological history. They were once an arm of the sea. All around, one sees the marks of the old shoreline on the hills. Into this ancient bay flowed two rivers, the Colorado and the Gila. Their waters were heavy with silt carried down from the mountains. After the manner of the Nile and the Mississippi and other great rivers in various parts of the world, they built deltas at their mouths.

As the millenniums passed, these deltas dammed off the bay, leaving a landlocked body of ocean water. In time, their water evaporated, leaving great salt beds. The level of these salt beds was far below the level of the sea.

AS the waters of the rivers slowed upon reaching the level coastal plain, they dropped their silt, thus BUILDING UP the river bed above the level of the surrounding plain. Then, in time, periods of flood would come and the rivers, notably the Colorado, would BREAK THROUGH their silty banks and again flood the inland sea.

No one knows how often this may have happened over the eons of time during which the mountains were being eroded away, but at least it happened again during a flood period in 1905. The restless Colorado broke through its banks and poured its full flow into the depressed basin that once was an arm of the ocean. After two years of struggle, the break was finally repaired, but in the meantime the Salton sea was formed. The Salton sea is now 35 miles long, ten to 16 miles wide and has a maximum depth of 70 feet. The surface of its water is 241 feet below the level of the sea and its salt content is about the same as the ocean.

THE waters of the Colorado have been harnessed and spread over the fertile areas that lie above the level of the ancient salt beds. The soil is rich. The sun is hot. There is no biting cold to inhibit growth. There is no WINTER season. The summer is merely hotter than the winter. Water for irrigation is presently abundant.

With rich soil, hot sunshine and abundant water, production is huge and dependable. In the Imperial valley, production takes the form of grain and hay and vegetables and sugar beets and such. The Imperial valley produces the staples of life.

THE smaller Coachella valley leans toward the more exotic side. One of its standbys is the date. In ancient Arabia, the date

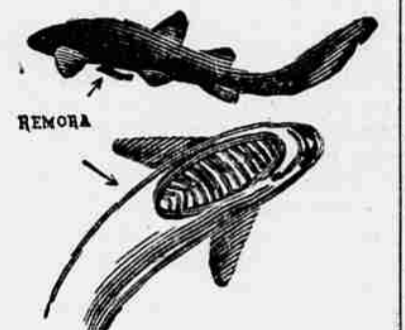
Is That So? Soviet Russia Starts Reshuffling Policy On Foreign Affairs

By Eugene Burns, Ranger-Naturalist

Did you know that . . . The greatest river in the world is the Gulf Stream which flows in the Atlantic Ocean. Between Cuba and the Florida Keys its flows three and a half knots, about as fast as you can walk and faster than you can row a good boat. That means 100 billion tons of salt water are carried past the Florida Keys every hour, on the hour, discharge equalling about 1,000 Mississippi rivers. This great warm river softens the climate of Britain and Scandinavia.

The remora, or shark sucker, is a hitch-hiking moocher. Its dorsal fin has been modified into a complicated sucker on top of its head. With this, it attaches itself to a large passing shark or any other large passing fish or turtle to get a free ride in the hope of sharing the meal at the end of the journey.

The "nowhere" point of earth—where zero latitude crosses



zero longitude occurs in the Gulf of Guinea, off the Western Coast of Africa. This means, further, that this "no-latitude," "no-longitude" point has "no-alatitude" either. The nearest town to "nowhere" is Accra, capital of the British Gold Coast colony.

The expression "straight from the horse's mouth" comes from paying no attention to what a prejudiced owner may say about his horse's age but examining the teeth for oneself—the only way to tell a horse's age quite accurately. In short, getting the true information "straight from the horse's mouth."

The common toad sheds its outer skin several times a year. And swallows it.

The weight of our earth is increased about 100,000 tons each year as a result of falling meteoric material from the sky, mostly dust and a few meteorites.

The combined weight of the average bee colony, numbering around 50,000 workers, on a queen and several hundred drones, is about ten pounds. (Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

Free: By special arrangement with the editors of the Encyclopedia Americana, my panel of judges will award each week to the reader, who sends me the best question on nature and wildlife a complete 30-volume set of this world-famous reference

was a staple food. The Arab warriors had no huge and ungainly supply trains to hamper the speed of their movements. Each warrior simply tied a bag of dried dates behind his saddle, and that was that. Given a little water for themselves and their horses, they were equipped for a campaign of any length. Their logical problems were nil. The date was a COMPLETE food.

It's different now. The date is a fabulous luxury. It is said by Coachella valley growers that it costs more to produce one date than to produce one piece of the most expensive candy.

That puts them right in the running in these modern days when the more expensive anything is THE MORE DESIRABLE IT IS.

THE same goes for Palm Springs, at the upper end of the Coachella valley. Like dates, it's all right. But one of Palm Springs' chief attractions is that it's expensive. Everybody loves to say he has been there.

By CHARLES M. McCANN, United Press Foreign Analyst

Soviet Russia has started quite an extensive foreign policy reshuffle because of the prospective rearming of Western Germany.

It has given its long threatened formal notice that it intends to annul its mutual aid pacts with Great Britain and France. At the same time it has expressed the hope in notes to the United States, Britain and France that a treaty to restore Austria's sovereignty can be concluded soon.

Before long, the Kremlin is expected to summon delegates of its Iron Curtain satellite governments to Moscow to organize a combined military command.

The notification to Britain and France that the mutual aid treaties are to be annulled has caused no excitement.

No Meaning To Treaty Not only was the annulment threat made months ago but the treaties themselves had long ceased to mean anything. The Kremlin's action is nothing more than an empty gesture.

The formation of a combined Iron Curtain military command will be in the empty gesture class also.

The armed forces of the satellite countries of Communist eastern Europe are under the control of the Kremlin now and they will continue to be.

From Russia's viewpoint the trouble is that in the event of a war not one of the satellite armies could be trusted to fight the allies. They might well end up marching eastward instead of westward.

Whether the Kremlin's Austrian Treaty action is an empty gesture should become apparent soon.

By invitation, Austrian Chancellor Julius Raab was to start talks with Soviet Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov today in Moscow.

Warning of Caution Raab has said that he will make no binding commitments in Moscow but will try to find out Molotov's price for a treaty.

To make sure that Raab is not coerced into any "deal," the United States, Britain and France have made a joint declaration cautioning both Russia and Austria against trying to make any one-sided agreements.

The big question is still whether Russia is willing to pull its occupation troops out of Austria. The probability is that it will not, and thus that there will be no treaty at this time.

If Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov had a sense of humor he undoubtedly would smile when he thought of denouncing the treaties with Britain and

work in a handsome Sealcraft binding. Each week, new questions will be considered. Sorry, I simply can't answer your many friendly letters. Please address your questions to: IS THAT SO? Care of Medford Mail Tribune, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif.

SOC WOMEN ELECT Ashland—Beth Eskew, junior in elementary education at Southern Oregon college, has been elected president of the Associated Women Students for the coming school year.

Elected vice-president was Patty Brooks, Lincoln Beach; treasurer, Arlene Lestic, Eugene; and secretary, Virginia Ferguson, Ashland. Miss Eskew, 21, is a graduate of Gold Hill high school. She is presently treasurer of the student body and a member of Sigma Epsilon Pi, women's honorary society.

France. These treaties bind the signatories to aid each other in event of war with Germany, and to enter no hostile alliances against each other.

The treaties have been outdated by events, and anyway the western allies have known for nearly 10 years that no treaty with Russia is worth the paper on which it is written.

Labor Council Tells Meat Inspection Proposal Support

The Medford Central Labor council, at a meeting last week, decided to write the ways and means committee of the Oregon legislature in support of House Bill 99, the proposed meat inspection law.

The council earlier had gone on record supporting the measure, and had written State Sen. Philip Lowry and Reps. E. H. Mann and E. A. Littrell, stating the council's view Replies have been received giving assurances of support.

Supports Disaster Car Plan The council also voted to go on record as giving support to the plan of the International Association of Fire Fighters to obtain and equip a disaster car for use in this area. The council said "this is indeed a very worthwhile undertaking, and is worthy of the support of all organized labor."

The firefighters local, No. 824, is seeking to raise \$20,000 through donations to purchase a bus and convert it into a disaster car, which would be manned by members of the local whenever needed.

The council reported that plans are being made to have guest speakers at council meetings from time to time. Their visits will be publicized, the council said.

Russians May Speak On 'Voice' Program Washington—(U.P.)—The U. S. Information Agency will invite 11 Russian student editors to broadcast to their homeland during their forthcoming visit to the United States.

USIA Director Theodore R. Sreibert said he planned to invite them to speak over the Voice of America "so that they can broadcast back to Russia and tell about their experiences here, and show that we have no Iron Curtain ourselves and they are perfectly free to speak to the world, whatever they wish to say."

Sreibert made the statement yesterday on a television program. He referred to the 11 Soviet student editors who arrive in New York April 19. The Russians plan a tour of at least eight American college campuses.

We Are 65%

Geo. N. Taylor Sixty-five per cent of us here in the U.S.A. are said to be church members. Many of us believe that our own good works will carry us straight to glory. Our own human goodness is to carry us up to heaven. But the Bible says that our own good works do not save us. Somewhere we sinned and the wages of sin is death—eternal separation from God. This is "The Second Death"—Revelation 20:13-15. All our good works will not blot out one sin. Only Christ's blood cleanses from sin—I John 1:7. Our part is to receive Jesus Christ into our heart as our own Lord and Saviour. At that, God writes eternal life on our page. Good works? Being saved let Jesus Christ work them out thru you. And by Bible and prayer, let us grow up.

This message sponsored by an Oregon dairyman and family.—Adv.

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