

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 initial 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.

Short Time for Help

To the Editor: In a recent editorial, you contend it is a greedy minority rather than the American people as a whole, who bear responsibility for the present plight of the American Indians. I disagree.

To be so apathetic—as most of us have been—that we neither knew nor cared what was happening, is to be equally as guilty as the greedy minority. Certainly in the familiar story of the Good Samaritan, the apathy of the Priest and the Levite who were able to avert their pious gaze from a wounded man lying in the ditch, is not condoned by Jesus. On the contrary it is, by implication, even more roundly condemned than is the greed of the thieves who put the man there.

Most times I am proud of my American heritage, but in this whole field of race relations, I am ashamed even of belonging to the so-called white race. Mere confession of guilt and wrongdoing, however, is not enough. I feel the need of at least trying to make some restitution.

As far as Indians are concerned, we in Jackson county have a marvelous opportunity to be "neighbors" to the Klamath people by helping some of them find jobs and housing off the reservation, and by assisting such relocated individuals and families to become really integrated in our communities. The Klamath people are one of the first groups scheduled for termination as wards of the government, the date set by Congress for ending all federal controls and assistance for them being August, 1958. If they are to exist after that date, many of them must find homes and a means of livelihood elsewhere now.

Interested citizens committees are already setting up such good neighbor programs for Indians in other areas. This may be our last chance to unburden our own consciences of guilt for our part in what the writer you quoted terms "the most shameful story in American history—the story of the white man's treatment of the American Indian."

Let's not have any more apathy. Let's have action, for the time is very brief.

Grace N. Pearson,
Route 2, Box 50,
Jacksonville, Ore.

"Four-Flushing" Seen

To the Editor: Something new has been added to the power controversy and it raises some important questions.

Our Republican Congressmen have spent the last three years parroting the private power "line" that the Federal Government has stopped building power dams. The record clearly demonstrates that these men have dragged their feet on every authorization or appropriation bill for Federal dams in Oregon and the Northwest.

But on March 1, all three voted for the enormous all-Federal power project on the Upper Colorado River system when the bill passed in the House.

They say the Government won't build dams. If so, how did the bill sail through the House with a 120 vote margin?

They say the High Federal Dam at Hells Canyon, for example, costs too much money and we have to balance the budget. But power facilities at Hells Canyon would only cost \$270,000,000 while the Upper Colorado power facilities will cost \$470,000,000.

Do our Republican statesmen figure Hells Canyon can't produce enough power? It can produce 5 billion kilowatt hours per year, compared to 3½ billion from the Upper Colorado.

Get that, please. Hells Canyon power facilities would cost 43 per cent less and produce 42 per cent more power than the Upper Colorado, yet Norblad's, Coon's and Ellsworth's votes went to the Upper Colorado. Where is that hard-headed, Republican business sense we've heard so much about?

I am not attacking the merits of the Upper Colorado Project. The people in that area need power and they need water. The Upper Colorado Project is their best hope of getting either, and the project is undoubtedly worth what it is going to cost. It is soundly engineered and no member of Congress need apologize for voting in its favor.

However, the people of Oregon are entitled to know why their Republican representatives are willing to vote for high-cost Federal power projects a thousand miles from home but are absolutely unwilling to vote for low-cost Federal power projects right here on the boundary and even inside the State of Oregon.

This sort of behavior is not the simple-minded, country-bumpkin type of four-flushing it might appear to be. This is four-flushing with a vengeance and with a purpose. If these men can think up a single, sensible reason for their behavior they ought to do it now and it ought to be good.

Howard Morgan,
State Chairman,
Democratic Party.

Attitude "Unfair"

To the Editor: There seems to be a sort of superior attitude, or so it seems to me, against the natural foods people, and this seems undemocratic and completely unfair. These people are, in my opinion, setting a very good example of what God intended man to do. When God created man He also created good food for him—foods necessary to his bodily upkeep and health. Are man's methods superior to God's? (Maybe you and I would do good to join the group instead of looking for chemicals to aid our health.)

Another thing I'd like to bring out—something that has come to my mind that you may wish to ponder—is the recent death of the beautiful little twin and her soon-to-die sister, both leukemia victims. They are from Grand Rapids, Mich., where they have had artificial fluoridation for a long time. The opposition warns of such possible danger due to fluoride poisons. Do we have the right to gamble with innocent children if there is the least possible call to doubt?

Anyway, those who wish to take a chance could certainly buy bottled fluoridated water, fluoridated milk, etc. for their children. But why should those who want it have the right to force it on our children, or for that matter on all of us. Sounds more practical to me anyway—since children only up to 12 years would benefit anyway—so why waste dollars fluoridating the lawn or washing the car?

Mrs. B. A. Miller,
728 Newtown St.,
Medford, Ore.

Hopes Benefits Soon

To the Editor: I have been interested and often quite amused at the letters opposing fluoridation which have appeared in this column. However, when I stop to realize that there may be some who are influenced by them, it becomes more serious and I hope this letter will help clear up some of the facts.

One assertion is that it will cost the "overburdened taxpayer" too much.

With the exception of the common cold, dental decay is the most universal and prevalent disease of man. The results of drinking our "pure spring water" are that our children have about twice as much tooth decay as the national average. Our water is deficient in fluorine.

Without changing the taste, color or harmless nature of our water, we can make up that deficiency through controlled fluoridation. We are told by the water commission that this can be done for less than four cents per person per month. (This figure includes initial expense of building and equipment plus annual cost of maintenance.) Average dental expenses per child per year in Medford run around \$58 for children up to 15. (Figures from a random selection of case records by a group of five Medford dentists.) It has been shown that fluoridation at a controlled rate of one part per million of water will reduce tooth decay by two-thirds. From these facts it is obvious that fluoridation offers a considerable saving

to the "overburdened taxpayer." I also have a specific objection to a letter that appeared in this column suggesting that fluoridation should be opposed by those professing the Catholic or Mormon faiths. As a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon) I strongly resent the incorrect inference. The 'Mormon' religion has never opposed anything that has been for the promotion of the better health of man. Furthermore, since religion is irrelevant to the subject, this represents an unscrupulous form of attack.

In conclusion I should like to point out that physicians and dentists have families who will be drinking fluoridated water in Medford too. In view of the fact that they have the data and information of all the allied fields of science available to them, doesn't it seem ridiculous that they should be so eager to give their children anything that might be harmful?

I respectfully submit this letter with the hope that my five children will be benefiting from a supplemented water supply soon.

Dwaine E. Nelson, D.M.D.,
832 East Main St.,
Medford, Ore.

Put It On Bailot

To the Editor: My dentist said that "Chemically speaking, fluoride is fluoride."

However, that found naturally in water is calcium fluoride and that added artificially is sodium fluoride.

Calcium fluoride in small quantity is beneficial and assimilated by the body in a natural way. But sodium fluoride, an aluminum waste product, accumulates in the body and becomes increasingly harmful.

Even if it does harden tooth enamel and even if doctors found no harmful effects in children who drank fluoridated water for 10 years, I believe they would find different results in those same children when they reach middle age.

What is going to happen to the children whom we are so anxious now to help after 20 to 30 years of accumulating this poison.

If fluoride has built up in vital organs and caused damage it will be a crime. Would the various organizations who have "recommended" fluoridation be responsible?

Mr. Kurtz, local manager of the New York Water Corp. stated, "The water company will have to be fully indemnified before it agrees to fluoridation."

Only six years ago the secretary of the American Medical Association testified, "Sufficient time has not elapsed to evaluate water fluoridation in the older age groups."

Many tests already have been made that show what long-range fluoridation will do. Two British physicians, Bond and Murray, gave one such report covering a number of years. I quote, "In these experiments rats were given small amounts of sodium fluoride in an effort to determine what organs might first react to the toxicity of the fluoride. (Pro claim nothing but the teeth are affected). The rats showed very definite kidney disorders . . . suffered from excess thirst and urine . . . showed diminished growth, low body weight and loss of fat stores. On autopsy their kidneys were dark, shrunken and mottled. Throughout the kidneys . . . there were growths."

On the basis of this experiment alone should we not have the right to say whether or not we, and people who already have weak kidneys will drink fluorine in our water?

I agree with Dr. Brandenburg that the majority should rule, and appeal to our city council not to yield to pressure and railroad this thing through. Their job is to represent the people. At least put this issue on the ballot and see what the majority want, as the Eugene council is doing.

Dorothy Roelfs,
714 Dakota st.,
Medford, Ore.

Unanswered Questions

To the Editor: As a mother of young children I have been interested in the articles and letters published in this paper about fluoridation. I have discussed this subject with both my dentist and physician and they are very much in favor of fluoridation.

Now, the question comes to my mind, with all the major agencies responsible for public health in favor of it, why are some people so violently opposed to it?

I have read the paid advertisements and letters in this paper from anti-fluoridationists, and it seems to me that they are talking about something entirely different than that which is proposed for our water supply, namely: One part of fluoride to one million parts of water.

I therefore would like to submit some questions for their answers and also the source of their information.

1. Where and when were studies made that show one out of five children will have mottled teeth from drinking water fluoridated at one part per million as proposed for Medford? (Advertisement 2/12/56).

2. In what cities were surveys made by medical authorities which show physical damage from drinking water fluoridated at one part per million?

3. Will water fluoridated at one part per million kill rats?

If they can answer these questions with documented proof from recognized authorities, then I certainly feel that the medical and dental societies should withdraw their support of fluoridation.

If these questions cannot be answered with documented evidence, then it would appear that the ads and letters from anti-fluoridationists are part of a sinister plot to withhold the benefits of healthy teeth from our children.

Mrs. Norton Smith,
41 Eastwood Ave.,
Medford, Ore.

Fluorides and Gadgets

To the Editor: In regard to the fluoridation of Medford water, we up here near the Big Butte Springs are, of course, not affected in any way by the proposal.

But I agree most heartily with some of those who oppose fluoridation. Those who want their water charged with sodium fluoride should consider the rights of others and not force their ideas onto those who do not want them. After all they can procure the material themselves.

If someone comes to me and tries to make me add or subtract some item from my food, drink, or what I wear they can go plum to hell. I think others are in agreement with my attitude.

Now to change the subject—Many people are complaining

Editorial Comment

WATER FLUORIDATION SHOULD BE ON BALLOT

The issue of fluoridation of municipal water is being raised in practically every area of Oregon since the State Supreme Court held, in the Bend case, that city officials have authority to so treat the water supply. The opponents of fluoridation in Bend had held that it was a violation of religious liberty in that some church groups are opposed to medication. The Supreme Court rejected that contention.

Most of the opposition here, and throughout the country, for that matter, seems to stem from an organization having certain natural food standards.

The membership in this group is not large but it certainly is militant. In addition to an energetic pamphlet campaign, the group appears to be fostering letters to the editor of the various local newspapers.

This office recently received one from a Medford citizen. The Medford Mail Tribune received one from a Texas physician, head of a living foods group.

Generally, the most dogmatic opponents of fluoridation are the ones least qualified to discuss medical matters.

Supporting fluoridation as a health measure are the federal and state health departments, the medical and dental associations.

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers is on record in support of fluoridation. The Oregon P-TA Congress has not gone as far as its national organization but has asked its local units to "study the problem."

Most of the opposition is based on the constantly reiterated charge, "Fluorides are poison." So is chlorine, but municipal water supplies, generally, are chlorinated. Many other substances used as medicines are "poisons" but frequently are the means of actually saving lives.

The local city council does not want to become the center of a fluoridation battle if it can avoid

about the cost of maintaining their automobiles. If they weren't so lazy they could do their own muckmaster to do it for them. I find myself capable of doing my own steering, gear changing, and a good part of my repair work. I can also put my arm out the window and do my own signaling and find it a devil of a lot simpler than maintaining a more or less expensive electrical system which is always subject to shorts and other assorted troubles. Yet the auto accessories lobby in the state capital says I must use signal lights if my vehicle is over 14 feet long. If one can't signal with his lazy arm maybe he'd be too lazy to work the signal switch. Me for greater simplicity.

Personally, I am becoming more and more disgusted with the tendency toward more mechanical complications and for that reason if I had the money I'd never buy an American automobile, period. American products are becoming worse instead of better, and when I buy a new car I'll buy one made in Germany where good workmanship is not old fashioned.

Floyd R. McCabe,
Mt. Pitt Star Route,
Butte Falls, Ore.

Sunday, March 11, 1956

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—FIVE

it, probably because the members feel they are having enough trouble, for the moment.

Local opposition to fluoridation is highly vocal but, in our opinion, if those who use city water ever have a chance to pass upon the issue, it will be supported more than two to one.

We are equally convinced that within a very few years, fluoridation will be as widespread as chlorination. In any event, we'd like to see the local citizenry have a chance

Announcer Gives Clue For Ready Car Thief

San Bruno, Calif. —(U.P.)—A public address announcer told the 9,000 fans at Tanforan Race track Friday someone had left the engine of his car running in

the parking lot. Two people reacted immediately—the owner and the person who drove it away before the owner got there.

to express themselves on the issue.

The city council could easily "get itself off the hook" by putting the issue to a vote of the city's electors. — Grants Pass Courier.

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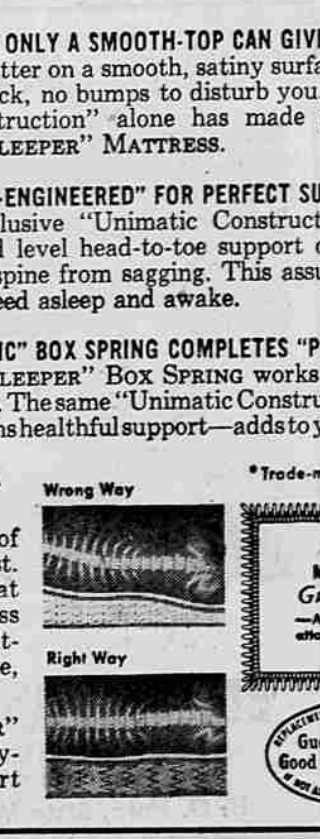
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