

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION... PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION... What's the Answer? Can You Get 4 of the 77

Slander The SP?

To the Editor: Please stop unjustly criticizing the Friendly Southern Pacific in your editorials. It does not enhance the reputation of your paper to print only one side of a given question.

The above, typed on a postal card, was well timed, for it arrived only a few hours, after it had been noted in this column, that for several weeks there had been a decided dearth of epistolary brick-bats which usually mark a presidential campaign year.

Not that this defense of the SP has anything direct to do with politics, or that there is anything objectionable about the offering (it is relatively speaking quite temperate in fact), but it does represent the sort of criticism so frequently directed at newspapers during a political campaign, that we are glad to print and comment on it.

THE CHARGE is made that in its criticisms of the SP and its policies, particularly in the field of passenger transportation which in southern Oregon has been abandoned, the Mail Tribune has been guilty of "slandering" that public utility, has "stretched" the facts, been unjust by presenting only one side of the case, etc., etc.

As so often happens, however, no evidence to support such accusations are given. And in this case, for a very good reason—there is none!

THE MAIL TRIBUNE, as well as many other newspapers in Southern Oregon, has been critical of the SP's "do-nothing" policies, of its high-handed action in depriving southern Oregon and northern California of all passenger rail service, and its refusal to carry out the terms of its original franchise or abide by the orders of the State Public Utility commissioner.

ABOVE ALL, we have deplored the fact that the "Friendly Southern Pacific" while parading under that slogan of good will has NEVER been "friendly" to this section of the state, it has taken millions of dollars out of the valley in profits from freight, and refused to spend a dime to give those who "pay the freight," even a "Toonerville Trolley" passenger service.

As for failing to give the SP side of the case that has been done countless times, as anyone who cares to look over the files of this paper will agree.

One reason is—there is nothing complicated or lengthy about it. It is short and to the point, to-wit: The Southern Pacific being unable to operate its passenger service from Eugene to Dunsmuir at a profit, DROPPED it, and thus increased its net profits, of course.

Such a policy has been described in this department as similar to the "public be damned policy" of Commodore Vanderbilt when he controlled the New York Central system—it was and is—putting the Almighty Dollar above all obligations of public service. Is that slander? There is nothing SLANDEROUS about it—it is simply the TRUTH!

WE ARE CONFIDENT, moreover, that if an impartial audit of the SP's finances were made it would be shown conclusively that if it resumed passenger service from Eugene to Dunsmuir, even at the estimated loss of former days, it could still make a handsome profit in its operation in that same district, by using a portion of its profits in freight to pay the losses.

In other words, the joint operation freight and passenger would, we believe, show such a profit that the stockholders would get the same handsome dividends and the executives the same altitudinous salaries, if the operation of this passenger service to southern Oregon were resumed.

SO IT COMES down to what a public utility enjoying a monopoly, owes to the people of any district it serves.

The SP says "NOTHING,"—unless every unit of its operation shows a profit. The fact that certain units of passenger service operate at a loss while the freight service in that same unit more than compensates for that loss—is "incompetent, irrelevant and immaterial."

WELL, PERHAPS, as the SP claims, that is the law, state and federal. If it is then, as urged in this department, the law should be changed.

FOR, AS WAS so clearly shown at the Medford SP hearing the withdrawal of SP passenger service from Eugene to Dunsmuir, works a genuine hardship upon thousands of people in the area that was formerly served. After all, everyone cannot fly, drive an automobile long distances or hop a bus.

Where a billion dollar utility enjoys a rail monopoly in such a prosperous and growing district, the law should, as we see it, insist that the utility under the principle of public convenience and necessity provide the area both passenger and freight service, so long as this joint operation can be carried on and show a reasonable net profit.

No one is asking the SP or any other business to operate at a net loss. A PUBLIC utility, however, owes an obligation not only to its stockholders in the way of profits, but to the people in the way of service. If the SP ever considered the latter, instead of only the former, there would be no SP problem.—R. W. R.

Hollywood Publisher Succumbs To Cancer Hollywood — (UP) — Harlan G. Palmer, editor and publisher of the Hollywood Citizen-News, died at Good Samaritan hospital Wednesday night of a cancerous condition. He was 71.

Albert Gore Seen as Possible Candidate for Vice President

Washington — (CQ) — The Tennessee's role at the Democratic national convention can be summed up this way: Kefauver is the candidate; Clement is the Keynote; and, Gore is just waiting to be called.

The last named and, perhaps, least well known of the volunteer state's remarkable trio of young political leaders is 48-year-old Sen. Albert Arnold Gore.

At handshaking, he is no match for 82-year-old Sen. Estes Kefauver. At oratory, 38-year-old Gov. Frank Clement is his better.

Libelist of Three Yet there are those who think Gore is the likeliest of the three to win a place on the national ticket.

A border-state moderate who has held himself aloof from Kefauver's campaign for the presidential nomination, he would balance a ticket headed by either Averell Harriman or Adlai E. Stevenson. Gore, himself, says only that he would be "surprised and flattered" if anyone considered him for the vice presidency.

Here are the tangibles that make him potentially attractive: His career is in the classic pattern, including a spell of teaching, then night law school, then farming and small business. He left Congress to serve in the Army in World War II.

A Republican, he neither smokes nor drinks. His wife, Pauline, is rated an excellent campaigner. They have a son, 6, and a daughter, 10.

Defeat McKellar Gore, though young, is an experienced and successful politician. He was elected to the House in 1939 and for six terms thereafter. In 1952 he won his Senate seat by challenging and defeating the veteran Sen. Kenneth D. McKellar in the Democratic primary.

Gore played the fiddle to draw crowds in his early campaigns. Later, he became one of the first Congressmen to make extensive use of television.

On the other hand some stands he has taken could cost Gore support for the nomination. Foremost of these is his 1947 vote for the Taft-Hartley Act, a position he has never publicly modified. In particular areas, his votes against the Refugee Relief act and the Upper Colorado reclamation project might be used against him.

Gore sums up his own record as "middle of the road. It does not particularly please either the extreme right or the extreme left." Congressional Quarterly found he supported and opposed President Eisenhower's stand on an equal number of votes in 1955.

Early in 1954 he was saying, "Even to a Democrat, Dwight D.

Eisenhower, the man, looks good." Lately, he has sharpened his criticism of the President.

Gore told Connecticut Democrats July 6 that "if the Republican nominees are Mr. Eisenhower and Mr. Nixon, then I say to you, with the deepest conviction, that neither of them has the qualifications to assure the United States of adequate leadership for the next four years. I say this irrespective of the condition of President Eisenhower's health."

Surface Indications As for his own chances of nomination, surface indications would seem to be against Gore. Kefauver is trying for the top spot on the ticket and probably is willing to take second place. Clement is openly seeking the vice presidential nod from his candidate, Stevenson.

But often in American politics the vice presidency has gone not to the man who made the most noise, but to the one who made the fewest enemies.

From Tennessee's point of view, it would be a blessing to have any one of its three leading Democrats on a winning national ticket. As one state leader said, "It's great to have one able, young man; it's even nice to have two; but three is just too many for one state."

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Tito Building Record In Political Roles

By CHARLES M. McCANN United Press Correspondent President Tito of Yugoslavia is building up a record for himself in the variety of his diplomatic and political roles.



Charles M. McCann, United Press Correspondent

As a Communist, Tito visited Premier Nikolai A. Bulganin and Communist party chief Nikita S. Khrushchev last month.

As a neutralist, he conferred in Yugoslavia last week with Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru of India and President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt.

As a member of the Balkan alliance — originally aimed against Russian aggression — Tito is now visiting King Paul and Queen Frederika of Greece on the island of Corfu.

In Moscow Tito completed the patching up of his long, savage quarrel with the Kremlin which resulted from the late Joseph Stalin's attempt to ruin him.

No Communist Consolidation He agreed to re-establish cooperation between the Russian and Yugoslav Communist parties.

But Tito made it plain that he has no intention of putting himself again in the Russian bloc of Communist countries.

The communique issued at the end of his visit emphasized that "the roads and conditions of socialist development are different in different countries." That constituted formal recognition by Russia of "Titoism"—that is, of freedom from any obligation to follow the Moscow line.

On his return home Tito said that he intended to maintain relations with the Western allies. Later, he made it known that he would not recognize Communist East Germany, as Russia would like him to do.

World Blocs Opposed In his conference with Nehru and Nasser, Tito slipped into the role of neutralist. The three leaders agreed in disapproving "the division of the world into powerful blocs of nations." They called for an end to the testing of nuclear weapons, and for an agreement to outlaw their use.

They also expressed "sympathy for the desire of the people of Algeria for freedom." But they also said that the rights of the French residents of Algeria should be protected.

This was a blow to Nasser, who had hoped to get Tito's full support for the Algerian rebels against France.

Tito's present visit to the King and Queen of Greece is the most interesting of the three meetings.

First, of course, as a Communist Tito is against everything that royalty stands for. War Threat Over In addition, only a few years

Today and Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

DEFLATION IN MIDDLE EAST Col Nasser has had a bad jolt in his game, which was to run an auction with Moscow and Washington.



Walter Lippmann

only for moderate stakes, when the stakes are as big as in the Aswan dam project, virtually all or nothing, the bidders become more cautious and may even refuse to play.

Before committing themselves to an undertaking which will last for 1 years and will cost a huge sum of money they are bound to ask themselves whether a government like that of Col. Nasser's is efficient and honest enough to administer one of the greatest public works ever begun on this planet.

If the Egyptian government proved itself not to be up to the task, the result might well be not a power and influence for the foreign government but trouble, disorder, and nationalistic resentment.

When Col. Nasser made his arms deal with the Soviet bloc, there was enough panic in Washington and London to cause them to try to outbid the Soviet Union by an offer to finance the foreign currency costs of the Aswan dam.

This, we can now see, was a mistake. It caused Col. Nasser to suppose that he had two rival bidders, each so determined to win the prize that he could play with them both. For months he has felt so sure of himself that instead of going seriously to work preparing for the tremendous job of building the Aswan dam, he has been playing revolutionary politics all over the Arab world.

His prestige there was high, it being supposed that the two great world coalitions were both waiting anxiously upon him, and that he was in the happy position to choose between them.

As it turned out, when he made his choice, there were no bidders. The West withdrew, almost certainly with reasonable knowledge that the Russians had made no firm bid. Once the West had withdrawn, the Russians lost no time in advising Col. Nasser not to turn to them with the implication that they had made an offer.

FOR THE time being the spell is broken, the notion that the control of Egypt depends on who finances the Aswan dam, and that Egypt will either be won to the West or lost to the Soviets. With no one financing the Aswan dam for the time being, the importance of Egypt, which had been inflated to almost global proportions, will become more nearly normal.

It took courage for Secretary Dulles to stand as he did on the Aswan dam, and he has been repaid by being proved right in his judgment that in Egypt the Soviet Union is not prepared to challenge the West totally, as would be the case were she to underwrite the Aswan dam.

According to the new Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Shepilov, the Soviet Union wants to exercise influence on Egypt's industrial development but is not taking the risk of seeking total control of, and total responsibility for, the Egyptian economy.

THE SOVIET position is in the line of the policy announced in Moscow last April during the interval between Malenkov's visit to Britain and that of Khrushchev and Bulganin. It was indicated then that the immediate objective of Soviet policy is to neutralize the Middle East rather than to take any serious risks in the attempt to conquer and absorb the Middle East.

This meant that the Soviet Union would not back the Arab states in a war against Israel, and would in fact oppose such a war. It meant, too, that their prime objective was to nullify the Baghdad pact, particularly as it might involve Iran in a military system aligned against them.

From the April Soviet declaration and from the London talks with the Russians, it became reasonably certain that they were not intending to challenge Britain mortally by attempting to deprive her of the Middle Eastern oil.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Britain, which has to watch the pennies, says United Nations is getting too costly and adds that if something isn't done to hold down the cost the British may have to pull out.

The warning was issued by Britain's Lord John Hope to the U. N. economic and social council, which is meeting in Geneva (Switzerland). Hope urged greater economy, asserting that rising budget levels of the U. N. and its specialized agencies constitute an excessive drain on Britain's resources.

So—The rest of the world is spending SOMEBODY ELSE'S dough. Under such an arrangement, the costs are sure to be pretty high. Human beings are so constituted that they spend somebody else's money more freely than they spend their own.

EGYPT'S Gamal Abel Nasser (pronounced Nah-SAIR) gets hot under the collar because the United States (joined by Britain) has withdrawn its offer to help finance the immensely costly Aswan high dam in Egypt.

He strikes an attitude and says: "Egypt will never submit to dollars or force!" Fine. Let's assure him in positive terms that we will FORCE NO DOLLARS ON HIM.

LET'S take a sharp look at this Aswan dam. If built, it will bring in about two million additional acres of rich Nile Valley land, which will provide additional competition for American farm products in world markets.

We can offer no objection, of course, if Egypt builds her own dams to bring more of her own land into production, thus building up her own economy. But we'll be just plain saps if we subsidize additional foreign agricultural production with money taken out of the pockets of American taxpayers.

WHILE we're at it, let's take a sharp look at India's Nehru, who is a buddy of Egypt's Nasser.

Nehru, who professes to be a friend of man although he is a silk stocking Brahmin aristocrat, is getting to be quite a man on horseback. He now holds FOUR of the top jobs in India's government. He is India's premier. He is India's foreign minister. He is India's finance minister. He is the chairman of India's state planning commission.

It's strongly reminiscent of the Hitler-Mussolini-Stalin pattern, isn't it? WOMAN 'DRIVES' IN Eaton Rapids, Mich. — (UP) — Mrs. Anna Ernsberger, 81, of Lake Odessa, Mich., drove into a "drive in" dairy store Wednesday and the store will never be the same. She missed the driveway, knocked down the sign and slammed into the building, shoving it eight inches off its foundation. She was not hurt.

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 July 28, 1946

It was Friday. Rain measuring .08 inch fell generally over southern Oregon last night and this morning, ending last week.

From Arthur Perry's Ye Sucker Pot column. After a week of monotonous torridity, the people have started wishing the weather would again become

20 YEARS AGO July 28, 1926

It was Sunday. The Jackson County Chamber of Commerce has endorsed a resolution calling for inspection of fruit, vegetables and other farm products entering Oregon from adjoining states. Oregon legislator, chamber president, announced.

Medford's \$120,000 sewage disposal plant is full operation; engineers said it was running successfully and up to expectations.

30 YEARS AGO July 28, 1926

It was Monday. Medford post American Legion to erect at the armory at 8 p.m. today.

James L. Linn of Eagle Point, chairman of the school board of district nine, calls for bids for construction of new school.

40 YEARS AGO July 28, 1916

It was Wednesday. The president of the water district and boardman, illegal fishing at the mouth of the Rogue river is continuing by commercial fishermen, it was announced.

The road to the rim of Crater Lake is now open.

GUESS HELL DO Battle Creek, Mich. — (UP) — A woman state police always gets their men even though the sometimes isn't the right one. Two troopers looking for Andrew Jackson, 40, who escaped from a prison farm stopped a man walking alone a highway near here for questioning. It wasn't Jackson, but it was Willie Gillard, 28, who had escaped from the prison farm.

USE TRIBUNE WANT ADS

Credit Bureau Topic At NOMA Meeting

Vern Bacon of the Credit Bureau of Medford explained operation of the credit bureau recently at the regular meeting of the National Office Managers association in the Medford hotel.

Bacon, who was introduced by Kenneth Pickens, discussed receiving and giving of credit information and status of customers. He also answered several questions on collection of overdue accounts.

Monte Stram reported to the group on preliminary plans for the Business Machine show, which the Medford chapter plans to sponsor in October.

The meeting was conducted by Frank Martin in the absence of Alvin Miller, president. Next meeting will be Aug. 27. Tentative program will be "Your Post Office and What It Can Do For You."

Supreme Court Backs Decision

The Supreme Court ruled, 6-3, on June 2 that the seizure was unconstitutional, and the strike was on again.

Government mediation finally ended the strike on July 24, 1952 after nearly five months of ruckus in the courts and on the picket lines.

Mr. Eisenhower's commerce secretary, Sinclair Weeks, tells questioners that the government's almost hands-off attitude toward the current strike represents basic administration policy which is: Let industry and labor be as free as possible to work out their mutual problems.

That's a policy which Republicans think will be worth some votes this year.



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