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Refreshing Candor

In a refreshingly rational and relaxed editorial entitled "November in Search of an Issue" the Eugene Register-Guard with a consoling pat on the neck of the Democratic donkey, concludes:

"It must be tough, real tough, to be a Democrat in 1956." Why any more so than in 1954 when the Oregon Democrats elected a US senator for a six-year term, for the first time in 40 years and the party nationally took over control of the congress?

THE "GUARD" does not answer this query directly, but reading between the lines one gets the impression that the paper believes it is going to be tough going for the Democrats in November chiefly because the people are so busy keeping up their installments on TV sets, laying tile in the bathroom floor, taking vacations, playing golf and roaming about that the "big issues" just do not exist as far as THEY are concerned.

The "Guard," in fact, goes as far as the young English hitch-hiker who visited Eugene recently and wondered what all the shooting was about. The peripatetic tourist, it seems, couldn't see much difference between the two parties and the Guard admits it is similarly confused, and obfuscated.

IT EVEN maintains that President Eisenhower wouldn't have a "prayer of getting his foreign policy off the ground if it were not for Democratic support," that many Republicans are leading the fight against the Eisenhower program, including reciprocal trade (and one might add foreign aid), and as for the farm problem the people are simply not interested, and if they were they couldn't understand the mess that the present administration has produced, for no one can understand it except the "professional agriculturists"—and one gets the impression not many of them can.

AS FOR THE "New Deal," far from repealing it, the Eisenhower administration has even "broadened one of the New Deal's most important elements, Social Security."

As stated this is a very refreshing and reasonably accurate appraisal of the present political situation, but why it should be so much tougher on the Democrats than the Republicans is not so clear.

After all, immediate victory isn't everything. And winning because of general inertia, public apathy, and indifference on the part of the people as to all "big issues" involved, would, we should think, hardly please the sort of Republicanism that the Register-Guard represents, that it would the Democrats.

Moreover, if the big issues include public power, judicious conservation of natural resources, courageous world leadership, the placing of the public welfare above private gain, etc., etc., we should imagine the Democratic party would be quite willing to make a fight for such principles even if they should not win this year—for they might two years hence.

As to world leadership the Guard maintains "the American people deny they're isolationists, but they ARE."

We wonder if our enlightened and fair-minded contemporary is quite sure it speaks advisedly for all the "American people?" The term takes in considerable territory. Or has the Guard, so discriminating in most directions—accidentally fallen into the error so common in the higher echelons of the Republican party, that to be a real, true 100% American one has to be an American Indian or belong to the GOP.

IT IS, as the Guard and the visiting Britisher agree, very confusing. And we grant from the standpoint of a vigorous and progressive democracy somewhat discouraging.

WE CAN'T speak for the Democratic party, but we doubt if the members—now with a registration majority in Oregon—feel quite as hopeless and frustrated as the Guard would make out.

After all they have as "big issues" most of their liberal principles which have been accepted as "standard procedure," and public apathy and indifference cannot last forever. Perhaps the "American people" will forget they are 100% "isolationists" long enough to awaken to the importance of the basic issues before them on November 6th?

At least we see no reason for the Democrats to lose hope. — R. W. R.

Catholic for Vice President?

A STRONG vice presidential nominee who happened to be a Roman Catholic would be a "decided asset" to the Democratic party, says House majority leader John W. McCormack of Massachusetts. One being mentioned is Sen. John Fitzgerald Kennedy of the same state, who at 39 is four years younger than Vice President Nixon.

Another being mentioned is Mayor Robert F. Wagner, 46, of New York City. Rep. McCormack, while denying that there is a "Catholic vote," insists that the North and South both would vote for a "good American who is a Catholic."

Against this conviction might be placed the story of the late Alfred E. Smith as Democratic nominee for President in 1928. He carried only eight states, with 87 electoral votes, as against 12, with 136 electoral votes, that had gone Democratic four years before.

Four states of the "Solid South"—in some parts of which anti-Catholic prejudices were utilized against Smith openly as well as surreptitiously—went Republican for the first time since Reconstruction days. Conversely, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, with a large proportion of Catholic voters, shifted from Republican in 1924 to Democratic in 1928.—E.R.R.

Polish Communist Party Takes New Step in Stalinism Retreat

By CHARLES M. McCANN United Press Correspondent Poland's Red rulers have taken a new step in the retreat of the Communist world from Stalinism.

The Polish Communist party announced Tuesday that in the future it will act as a political party instead of exerting direct rule over the government.

Communists, of course, will still rule the country. Nevertheless, the move appears to be an important one. It is a further recognition of the fact that Russia's downgrading of Josef Stalin has

got out of hand and that absolute Communist dictatorship of the satellites must be downgraded also.

Also, the official divorce of the Communist party from the government keeps Poland, Russia's largest and most important satellite, well in the lead in the loosening-up of Red rule.

Shock Of Poznan It is further recognition, too, of the shock which the Poznan riots of June 28 gave the Communist world. This shock has resulted in important concessions to the people not only in Poland but in other satellites.

In decreasing its official divorce from the government, the Polish Communist party said that it had been too bound up in bureaucracy and had not been

sufficiently in touch with the "masses."

Links between the party and the people, it was said, must be strengthened. This presumably meant that there is going to be a big propaganda campaign to try to convince the people that the Communists really are nice people, inclined to be democratic. Few Poles are likely to buy that line, but there can be no harm in trying.

There have been other developments this week which have shown the new trend in Communist countries. Czechoslovak Premier Viliam Siroky asked his parliament Wednesday to approve legislation giving more authority in administration to Slovak authorities.

To "Improve Relations" Siroky said the legislation would "improve the relations between the two nations." Under the constitution, proclaimed in 1948, Czechoslovakia is "a unitary state of two Slav nations, the Czechs and the Slovaks, possessing equal rights."

It always has been a complaint of the Slovaks, since Czechoslovakia became a nation in 1948, that the Czechs ran the country.

There was a new de-Stalinization development in Hungary also. Premier Andras Hegedues said in Parliament that the government intends to give the people a better standard of living and more liberty. He said that improvement of living conditions is now the government's main goal. He promised also that police powers would be curbed.

All this, it must be reported, does not mean that there is going to be a retreat in the satellites from Communist dictatorship as well as from Stalinism. But it does seem to mean that the Reds feel they must loosen their grip to some extent.

Paper Millmen Seek Wage Hike at Salem

Salem—(U.P.)—More than 80 millmen of Oregon Pulp and Paper Company here were on strike today for a wage increase.

Involved in the dispute were 76 members of millmen's local 1411 plus a handful of Teamster warehouse workers who refused to cross picket lines.

The millworkers failed to show up for work yesterday after several weeks of wage negotiations failed.

Two pickets were placed on the idle sash and door section of the plant, but the pulp processing division was not affected.

Millmen seek a 15-cent hourly increase and have refused a company offer of 12 1/2 cents. Union officials said a 15-cent hike would put workers on a par with plants in Portland, Aumsville, Eugene and Albany. They said other Salem shops had agreed to the increase.

In The Day's News By Frank Jenkins

Hot Hum! What shall we talk about today? The choice seems to lie between election year politics and the Suez canal.

If we have to choose between evils, let's take the Suez.

The idea of a man-made canal to cut across the Isthmus of Suez and save the long trip around the Cape of Good Hope is very old. It was first broached some 700 years B.C. by Haroun-al-Raschid, the Caliph of Baghdad. He toyed with the notion for a while, but decided he could have more fun doing other things. If you're curious as to the "other things," go back and reread the Arabian Nights. You'll concede that at least he had a good time.

SOME 2,500 years later, Napoleon Bonaparte took a hack at the idea of cutting a canal across the Suez isthmus. But, like Haroun-al-Raschid, he had other and more toothsome fish to fry—including taking a crack at conquering the world.

So he passed it up. It was Ferdinand de Lesseps, a French engineer and diplomat, who finally did the job. He was also a financier. He organized a company with a capital stock of about 40 million dollars, of which private free enterprise Frenchmen bought a little over half.

Turkey took a quarter of it, various other countries bought piker amounts out of their treasuries and the Viceroy of Egypt took the rest. It was what in these days we might call a whirlwind sales campaign. De Lesseps formed his company in 1858, and by early in 1859 he had the stock all sold. He started throwing dirt late in April and ten years later, in November of 1869, he had it finished.

YOU'LL note the absence of England in these transactions when the money was being laid on the line. Although she stood to gain more from the building of the canal than any other counsign the agreement, holding out for special privileges. She came across, however, in 1904 and signed the agreement, agreeing

try, she put nothing into the kitty. The British of those days were like that. Their idea was to let somebody else put up the cash and take the risks and if it turned out all right they'd step in and take the profits.

Their chance to get in on a bargain basis came some 15 years after the canal was opened to traffic. The Khedive of Egypt, who was a playboy of the first magnitude—like most of the rulers of Egypt all down through history—spent his country's treasury empty and was in a bad way for fun money.

So the British stepped in and took over his Suez canal stock at an attractive figure. The deal was put through by Disraeli, who next after Churchill was probably Britain's most famous premier.

NOW comes the interesting part. In 1888, an international convention agreed that the canal should be open on equal terms to ships of all nations, both in war and in peace. Britain refused to do the original terms which stated that no policing or fortifying of the canal would be allowed by ANY ONE NATION.

Then, in 1914, she reneged and put armed forces on both sides of the canal and allowed only the ships of nations not at war with her to use it.

How come? Well, in 1914 WORLD WAR I broke out.

When war breaks out, all bets are off.

THAT'S where we come in. Egypt's Nasser declares today that (under Egyptian ownership) freedom of navigation in the Suez canal will be GUARANTEED. He says: "Both the convention of 1888 and assurances concerning it in the Anglo-Egyptian agreement of 1934 are and will be fully maintained."

Says Man on Horseback Nasser. But— If he goes to war, he'll close the Suez—WHAM!—just like the British did when they went to war in 1914.

President Gets Less Than Half of What He Sought in Congress

Washington—(CQ)—For the second year running, the Democratic-led 84th Congress gave President Eisenhower less than half of what he asked for.

Congressional Quarterly's boxscore showed that the President batted .459 in the session that adjourned July 27. Congress approved 103 of the 224 specific and distinct legislative requests made by the President in 1956. This works out to 45.9 per cent, or, in baseball terms, a .459 batting average.

At the end of 1955 or the first session of the 84th, Congress had approved 96 of 207 requests, or 46.3 per cent. By contrast, the Republican-led 83rd Congress approved nearly 73 per cent of the President's requests in 1953 and about 65 per cent in 1954.

Separate Requests Not all Presidential requests are equally important. Major proposals, however, usually involve a number of separate requests. Thus, CQ counted nine items in the President's school construction proposal, none of which Congress approved.

On the other hand, the President secured Senate approval for 11 minor treaties, each a separate boxscore request. The net result tends to balance.

On the eve of adjournment, Senate Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson (D. Tex.) said the President would get "about 75 per cent" of what he wanted, while Minority Leader William F. Knowland (R. Calif.) thought the President would have a "good batting average." CQ's boxscore is non-partisan.

President Eisenhower may be consoled by the fact that he did about as well as the Democratic boss of the Senate. Last Nov. 21 Sen. Johnson proposed a 13-point "program with a heart." CQ's analysis showed 28 distinct legislative items in the Johnson program, of which Congress approved only 12. So the Democratic leader batted only .428.

School Program Both the President and Johnson lost out in their requests for a school program, revision of immigration laws, a program for depressed areas, the Frynspan-Arkansas reclamation project and the Niagara power project. Johnson likewise lost on the natural gas bill and fixed 90 per cent price supports, both of which passed Congress only to be vetoed by Mr. Eisenhower.

As usual, few major Presidential proposals enjoyed strong bipartisan support on Capitol Hill. Chief of these were the soil bank program, to cut back farm surpluses, and the \$37 billion highway program.

In the hauling and pulling of 1956, the President came out on top in fights over public housing, fixed vs. flexible price props and the extension of corporate and excise tax rates without an individual income tax cut.

Security Program In turn, he took a drubbing over the mutual security program, when Congress cut his \$4.9 billion request by more than \$1 billion. And while Congress agreed to customs simplification, it insisted on a crippling restriction.

Politically speaking, both parties probably lost out when Congress failed to enact the school construction and civil rights programs requested by the President. Other important Eisenhower requests that died with adjournment: higher postal rates, for which the President had expressed a "prayerful hope"; revision of the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act and authority for the U. S. to join the Organization for Trade Cooperation.

Altogether, the President got very few things he didn't want. Among proposals actively opposed by the President which failed to reach his desk were the so-called Bricker amendment, a "Christmas tree" veterans' benefits bill, a federal dam for Hells Canyon and a \$440 million pro-

gram to build atomic power reactors. None got out of Congress. As usual, Congress postponed action on statehood for Hawaii (urged by the President) and for Alaska (pushed by the Democrats). The Alaskans will have the first opportunity to express their reaction to all this. Their general election comes up Oct. 9. (Copyright 1956, Congressional Quarterly)

Start of Bandwagon Movement Seen For Adlai E. Stevenson

By LYLE C. WILSON United Press Correspondent Washington—(U.P.)—The Democratic breakthrough from former President Truman's idea of a presidential ticket and campaign looks as though it might go all the way.

Mr. Truman is a give-'em hell, far-left-of-center campaigner. The most disputed issue inside the Democratic party right now is race relations, and Mr. Truman did much to make it so.

The left wing of the Democratic party is represented at the top by such men as Gov. Averell Harriman of New York, Gov. G. Mennen Williams of Michigan and his powerful ally, President Walter Reuther of the United Automobile Workers.

Their ideas of a presidential ticket, a platform and a campaign appear to be more like Mr. Truman's than the ideas, for instance, of Adlai E. Stevenson. Stevenson is committed to a campaign of moderation, and the old master from Independence, Missouri, is not a political moderate.

There seem already to be the beginnings of a bandwagon movement for Stevenson. He looks now like a winner. If his position improves, Stevenson will be able importantly to influence the language of the Democratic platform, especially the vital plank of race relations and integration in the schools.

A great many Democrats, including such left wing party men as Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, Minnesota, also are looking for a safe compromise plank on race relations. But there is no evidence that Mr. Truman believes they are wise in so doing. He won election once against a bolt of Southern conservatives, and he evidently believes a hard hitting candidate with the right platform could do it again.

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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 August 2, 1946 (It was Friday) Jackson Creek Lumber company, Inc., Dorthy E. Dowson, president, purchases sawmill and timber holdings of the De-Armond Lumber company of Medford.

20 YEARS AGO August 2, 1936 (It was Sunday) With the second presentation of "Romeo and Juliet" last night the second annual Shakespearean Festival came to a successful close in the Lithia park Elizabethan theatre.

30 YEARS AGO August 2, 1926 (It was Monday) Building expenditures in Medford totaled \$41,165 during July.

40 YEARS AGO August 2, 1916 (It was Wednesday) An ordinance authorizing issuance of \$300,000 bonds for construction of the proposed railroad to the Blue Ledge was passed last night by the city council.

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

1. The average U.S. family spends more every year on auto repairs, alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, or medicines? 2. Your chances of getting or avoiding cancer are strongly affected by your diet, right or wrong? 3. Euratom is a timing device for musical instruments, kind of atom, epithet for an unfaithful husband, or inter-European atomic energy plan? 4. John N. Garner of Texas served one, two, three or four terms as Vice President? 5. More Buicks than Plymouths were made in the first half of 1956, or more Plymouths than Buicks, or about the same number of each? 6. The U.S. Coast Guard Academy is at Annapolis, Md.; West Point, N.Y.; Denver, Colo.; New London, Conn.; or San Diego, Calif.? 7. Which of these made his first fortune in furs: J. D. Rockefeller, J. J. Astor, J. P. Morgan, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Andrew Carnegie? The answers: 1. On alcoholic beverages. 2. Wrong. 3. Inter-European atomic energy plan. 4. Two. 5. More Buicks. 6. New London, Conn. 7. Astor.