

Neuberger Tells of Greatest Challenges Since Becoming Senator From Oregon

(Editor's Note: This is one of a series of guest columns written by members of the Oregon congressional delegation, concerning their part in the recently adjourned 85th Congress.)

By Richard L. Neuberger
Junior Senator from Oregon

Washington — Political friend and foe alike probably expect this guest column to be devoted exclusively to Hells Canyon and the Al Sarena timber scandal. Instead, I plan to discuss a few of the things which have afforded me the greatest challenge or personal interest since I became a member of the U. S. Senate a year and a half ago.

1. The Social Security eligibility age for women has been lowered from 65 to 62. This was one of the main issues of my 1954 campaign. In fact, I introduced the first Senate bill on the subject in this Congress. Perhaps you will remember that a leading Oregon Republican denounced me as a "Socialist" because of it. Yet it has seemed only fair that both members of a married couple ought to be able to retire simultaneously, and most wives are younger than their husbands. Eventually, women's retirement age should be reduced to 60,

which is a time when many single women often must quit work for reasons of health.

War Orphan Bill Signed

2. President Eisenhower signed my bill allowing Harry Holt of Creswell to bring eight Korean war orphans to this country for a new start in life. Without the help of this Oregon farmer, the babies might have died of neglect. I shall never forget carrying one of the waifs down the steps of Mr. Holt's plane. This has stirred my interest in the whole question of refugee orphans. They are our responsibility, for American GIs fathered many of them. Some of us were able to get a bill through the Senate adding 5000 more orphans to the immigration quota. What could better carry out the words on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty: "give my your poor... the homeless, the tempest-tossed"? Alas, the bill died in the House.

3. I worked hard to help get through the Senate a bill requiring humane methods of livestock slaughter. Switzerland has had such a law since 1874. The U. S. is one of the few free nations where barbarism is tolerated in

packing plants. I also protested the use of live goats for target practice at Army camps. I have been outraged over ex-Secretary McKay's policy of surrendering our wildlife refuges for oil and gas drilling. You probably recall my complaints over the liquidation of the famous White House squirrels, which have brought such pleasure to children visiting the capital. A few reactionary Republicans object to my interest in the welfare of our animal friends. I always remind them that Dr. Albert Schweitzer, the great humanitarian bringing medical care to the African natives, has often said that the mark of a

truly civilized person is his attitude toward animals.

Aid to Education

4. Both Maurine and I have spoken all over the country in favor of federal aid to education. This is an urgent need, with millions of students in firetraps and teachers poorly paid. Furthermore, it was a leading issue in 1954, when Phil Hitchcock, who debated in behalf of my opponent, spoke frequently against such school aid, while I spoke for it. The NEA has wisely emphasized that our national government evidently can spend billions for munitions, but nothing for schools. The loss of the school

bill was a major catastrophe. We shall continue our efforts in 1957.

5. Free government is lost unless idealistic young people care about it. We have tried to encourage outstanding Oregon boys and girls in this direction. Each year a committee of educators selects for me a student researcher from an Oregon college. Maurine and I have used some of my writing fees to give scholarships to these colleges, to stimulate interest in government careers. And I have sacrificed other patronage to be able to select a Senate pageboy. I am proud that Senate Majority Secretary Robert Baker declares my two pages

to date, Mike Forrester, 16, of Pendleton, and Keith Schroeder, 15, of Myrtle Point, to be "just about the best to come this way in a long time."

Being Senator Great Honor

Frequently I am asked how I like being a Senator. It is a great honor. I shall never cease to be grateful for this opportunity. Yet I would rather live the year around in Oregon, and politics does not afford as much personal inner satisfaction as writing. This, to me, is fine. It keeps me from being politically frightened. Undoubtedly I make many mistakes, but they are mistakes of the head and not of the heart.

Service in the Senate would be intolerable if one were in constant terror of being defeated. I may worry about my health or my family, but I never worry about the next election.



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HERBERT HOOVER
Not Thinking About Slowing Down

Herbert Hoover Plans For 82nd Birthday Observance on Friday

San Francisco — (U.P.) — Most men would start thinking about slowing down when they reached age 82. But not Herbert Clark Hoover.

On Friday the only living Republican ex-President will note his 82nd birthday and if he puts in less than his usual 16 hours of work that day it will only be a special concession to the occasion.

Mr. Hoover is the only former President to live to 82 since the death of James Madison in 1836. None has been so active in his eighties. And only two others have lived longer, James Madison who died at 90 and Thomas Jefferson 83.

Now the seemingly tireless Mr. Hoover is looking beyond his birthday to Aug. 21 when he will mount the stage of the cavernous Cow Palace here and address the Republican National Convention.

The ranking elder statesman of the Republican Party is staying at his 17th floor suite in the

Mark Hopkins Hotel on Nob Hill while in town. There he dictates or writes out in longhand letters and reports concerning his varied activities ranging from boys clubs to the Hoover Commission for streamlining the executive branch of the federal government.

Mr. Hoover made one of his rare public appearances last week when he announced formation of a fund to finance a \$42,000,000 medical center on the Stanford University campus.

Mr. Hoover, a member of Stanford's first graduating class in 1895, is honorary chairman of the fund.

Has Dry Humor

As he addressed a press conference, America's 31st President appeared alert and bright-eyed. His shoulders were slightly hunched but he walked with a firm tread. His voice was clear and he spiced his comments to the newsmen with his well known dry humor.

For example, speaking of the huge medical center planned for the Stanford campus 30 miles south of here, he remarked:

"In view of the butchery that goes on on the great highways running south from San Francisco there is need of more hospitals down there."

Mr. Hoover's part in the huge medical undertaking typified his past acts in humanitarian fields. During the Boxer Rebellion in China and following World War I and World War II he called on his talents for management and organization which made him a millionaire mining engineer to avert famine among war refugees.

ALARMIST

Jamestown, N.Y. — (U.P.) — Three times in one week fire apparatus responded to an alarm from the same busy intersection. Three times it was a false alarm. Detective Earl Thies finally tracked down the culprit, a six-year-old kindergarten girl. She explained she wanted to see what would happen. Punishment was left up to her mother.

Bedford, Ia. — (U.P.) — Ben Scane really doesn't hate women despite the sign on his truck which says: "Keep your wife in hot water." Scane is a plumber.



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