

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE
"Everyone in Southern Oregon Reads The Mail Tribune"
Published Daily Except Saturday by MEDFORD PRINTING CO.
27-29 North 2d St. Phone 2-6141

Chess Behind Bars

Human tragedy is where you find it—in penthouse or prison.

The death of a child is a heart-wrenching thing. But perhaps a greater tragedy is a life wasted and of no particular value to anyone—even to its possessor.

IN 1931, a Puerto Rican immigrant and two companions, both railroad section hands in Central Oregon, were swindled by a professional gambler. They decided to take their money back from him. They held him up, and in the scuffle the gambler was killed. The Puerto Rican was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Twenty-one years later he was released on parole. He "went straight," on the outside. But, he said, life had "passed him by." He couldn't find anyone to play chess with him—a game which he learned in prison and in which he became proficient. "I am like 'Alice in Wonderland,'" he said last week, "Everything is so different than when I went to prison. I can't seem to adjust myself."

HE WENT to the Klamath county jail and asked to be sent back to prison. "I want to go back to Salem where I can find some peace of mind," he told the jailors. "Technically," he said, he is a parole violator, and should go back to finish his life term.

A deputy sheriff was assigned to return him to the prison, and as he left, the greying convict said he'd be glad to get back there. "Maybe some of my old chess-playing pals are still around."

No one knows what this man might have been had his life not turned out to be a blank page. All we know is that he is to be pitied as he sits behind bars, whiling away the hours playing chess, secure from the world which has passed him by.

He is a lost man. And it is also a loss to society, which now supports him, and to mankind.—E.A.

Not Half Bad

The U.S. bureau of the census revealed last week that the female population of this nation outnumbered the male by a million or so for the first time in history.

Some editorial writers (masculine) have viewed this with mild alarm. "Matriarchy," one of them foresaw. "Petticoat government," another predicted.

Well, now, as the only male member (the puppy excepted) in a family of four, we are considerably more outnumbered than the American male population as a whole, and can testify that it isn't half bad.

THE male, sadly enough, is not as hardy a creature as the female. She may suffer more from hypochondria, but she outlives the opposite sex in imposing numbers—and by several years, according to figures we have seen. This is one contributing factor to her new-found statistical dominance.

But despite her hardihood (the reasons for which no one knows, but which may involve the kind of life she leads) she is not, on the average, much concerned with personal participation in government, except for voting.

And in casting her ballot she is not necessarily going to cast it for another woman; she may be even less apt to do so than for a capable (or good looking) man.

IN ANY event we advise our colleagues to dispell their fears.

Even if their worst worries came to pass, it would not be an insupportable world.

We know. We live there.—E.A.

Fast Mail Service

It wasn't long ago that we received two letters in the same mail—one from Prospect, the other from Honolulu.

The one from Hawaii had been mailed the morning before the day it was received. The one from Prospect was mailed three days before.

Once, it took us two days to receive a letter post-marked in Medford.

Following a week end or holiday, some of the 20 or so newspapers we receive are as much as five or six days late.

The purpose here is not to criticize as much as it is to point out that every organization has its imperfections (there was probably a reason for each case cited above), and to lead up to the fact that if the United States really demanded, and was willing to pay for, fast and efficient postal service, it could get it.

IN A RECENT Collier's article, Robert Bendiner reported that Europeans take quick and efficient mail service for granted—and we do mean quick.

He cites the case of a suburbanite in London who mailed an application for membership in a tennis club in the first mail of the day (in the morning) and by afternoon, in the day's third delivery, received his membership card.

A Parisian, he says, can get a letter to another part of the city within an hour. And in London a housewife can order groceries in the morning by mail, and have them delivered in time for dinner.

Conditions in the tight little nations of Europe are different, of course, than in the sprawling United States, and its expanded, auto-dominated cities. And mail service here, generally, is good—but it could be better.—E.A.

Ike's Congressional Messages May Define 'Modern GOP' View

By LYLE C. WILSON United Press Correspondent

Washington — (U.P.) — President Eisenhower's formal definition of his proposed modern Republicanism is about six weeks away. It will come in his annual message and budget message to the new Congress which convenes Jan. 3, 1957.



Modern Republicanism was the phrase Mr. Eisenhower used in his victory speech on election night to describe his own political position and the position to which he intends to move the foundations of the Republican party. Or, perhaps, he feels the shift already has been made.

The election returns convinced

Mr. Eisenhower that the Republican party must achieve a new look. In his first news conference after the votes were counted, the President put it in his own words:

"Some change in the understanding that the public has of the Republican party is necessary. Not aware of New GOP The President's language indicates that he feels modern Republicanism has been achieved but that the voters are not yet aware of it. He sees his political job during the next four years to be one of demonstrating to the voters that modern Republicanism has prevailed over the old-time GOP religion.

The details of modern Republicanism as to taxes and spending remain to be revealed in the two big January messages. There will be a preview of the 1957 model of the President's domestic program on Dec. 13 when he meets with the cabinet and GOP congressional leaders.

Mr. Eisenhower was asked at his first post-election news conference how he planned to win the Taft Republicans to his effort to modernize the party. The President replied that even they should be convinced by now the public must get a new understanding of the Republican party and what it stands for.

There will be a lot of the welfare state conception of government in the party of modern Republicans, Mr. Eisenhower put it this way:

"I think I can tell you in a few sentences what I think about modern Republicanism. It is a type of political philosophy that recognizes clearly the responsibility of the federal government to take the lead in making certain that the productivity of our great economic machine is distributed so that no one will suffer disaster, privation through no fault of his own."

Mr. Eisenhower did not, however, commit the federal government in doing this itself. The federal government, evidently, would take the lead, but the direct responsibility would be on the states.

"We believe," he said, "that it is free enterprise that has brought these various blessings to America."

"Therefore, we are going to try our best to preserve that free enterprise, and put all of these problems in the hands of localities and the private enterprise of states wherever we can..."

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In The Day's News

At its 38th annual convention in San Diego recently, the California Farm Bureau Federation adopted a resolution favoring removal of government price supports of farm crops. Not all at once. After all these years, that would be a little too drastic. What the resolution called for was gradual reduction of flexible supports with a view to their eventual discontinuance thus bringing American agriculture back to reliance on supply and demand.

The resolution added: "It is not the function of government to guarantee profitable income to any economic group."

Surprising? Not particularly. It has long been apparent to all intelligent farmers that the price support system — which was instituted originally as a wartime device to stimulate the abnormally heavy production of

Indeed, in the political campaign that has just closed, the Democrats — backed by a considerable number of well-known Republicans — proposed repeal of the system of flexible price supports which does apply some brakes to overproduction. It was a deliberate political scheme to capture the farm vote in enough of the big farm belt states to upset the administration that had instituted the flexible support system.

It is a tribute to the sound thinking of the majority of American farmers that the scheme fell on its face. It is true that the Eisenhower vote in the big farm states was smaller this year than in 1952, but it wasn't enough smaller to win any important farm state for Stevenson.

It is this same basic sound thinking that leads the California Farm Bureau Federation to call for gradual removal of government price supports of farm crops and eventual return to free markets based of supply and demand.

House Elders The Elders of the House, will be Reps. Brent Spence (D-Ky.), 82, and Clare E. Hoffman (R-Mich.), Will Neal (R-W.Va.) and Daniel A. Reed (R-N.Y.), all 81.

Reps. Edwin May Jr. (R-Conn.), Kenneth Gray (D-Ill.), Merwin Coad (D-Iowa) and Joe Holt (R-Calif.), all 32, will be the youngest House members.

As in the past, the nation's laws will be written mainly by lawyers. Nearly two-thirds of the members of Congress also are members of the bar. Almost a third of the members have had experience in business or banking.

Agriculture, teaching and journalism also figure in a substantial number of biographies. Though many of the members will attribute their votes to "divine inspiration, Rep. Walter Judd (R-Minn.), is the only former minister.

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Sewer Line Cavein Kills Walla Wallan Walla Walla — (U.P.) — Otto A. Stuefen, 53, Walla Walla, died when buried under six feet of dirt following a sewer line cavein here yesterday.

Jack Smith, also of Walla Walla, who was working with Stuefen when the accident occurred, said they were laying pipe at the bottom of a 15-foot trench when the walls of the ditch began to crumble.

Smith said he and Stuefen ran in opposite directions and Stuefen was buried.

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Necessity Seen Cause Of Varying Methods In Poland, Hungary

Editor's note: Kenneth Brodney is a former United Press dispatch writer in Moscow. The following dispatch, based on his own first-hand observation of the new collective leadership in Russia, analyzes the apparent contradictions between Russian treatment of Poland and the ruthless way in which it crushed the revolt in Hungary.

By KENNETH BRODNEY Written For United Press The baffling spectacle of the Russians giving in tamely to Polish demands for more freedom while continuing savage crackdown on Hungary continues to confuse the West.

It illustrates the key factor in Soviet policy-making: Necessity! The Soviets gave in to the Poles because they thought they had to—as the only way to prevent another Hungary.

But they also smashed the Hungarian revolt because they thought they had to—as the only way of saving their sacred line of buffer states from the West, which they still fear with their old obsessive fear.

And necessity will also prevent any wholesale return to complete Stalinism inside Russia; to the terrorization of the entire population by the secret police and the mass purges of the old dictator.

Drop Old Tactics The team that took over when Stalin died dropped these tactics because they were forced to by popular pressure, not because of any mystic conversion inside the Kremlin to the side of the angels.

Popular pressure in Russia can't express itself politically, but it can in a hundred other ways, grinding like massive millstones. People grumble publicly, they argue bitterly with the bureaucrats, they get drunk, they steal and embezzle and bribe, and

Christmas Buying Expected To Establish Record Total

Washington — (U.P.) — The U. S. Chamber of Commerce predicts that Christmas buying will push up retail sales to a record total "of at least" \$193 billion this year. That would be \$7.5 billion more than in 1955.

Retail sales for the Christmas buying months of November and December, auto sales excepted, will climb to \$31.1 billion, \$2.1 billion more than the total for the same two months last year, the chamber predicted. Sales for the same period, auto sales included, will total \$37.1 billion, up \$1.9 billion over 1955, it said.

The chamber said that all 1956 buying is healthier than last year's, "reflecting a more normal expansion in population and personal income." In 1955, record sales resulted "from a consumer buying spree, particularly for autos," it said.

147.06 Megacycles Assigned Local Group

A frequency of 147.06 megacycles has been assigned as the primary frequency on the two meter band in Jackson county in Radio Amateur Civil Emergency service operation, according to Dwight J. Albright, control center chief.

The frequency of 145.26 megacycles is assigned for use as a secondary frequency only, Albright said. The frequency also is assigned to the Redding, Calif., area, he said, but no interference is expected.

The control station is working with the Oregon Civil Defense headquarters in Salem and handling messages on a test basis each Monday night between 8 and 9 p.m., Albright said. The station in Jackson county is in the National Guard area near Camp White.

Albright said any operators interested are urged to attend the weekly meetings.

Congress Averages Older This Time Than Past Session

Washington — (CQ) — The newly elected Congress is older, if not necessarily wiser, than the one that closed shop last July. And most members are lawyers.

Come January, the average Senator will be pushing 58, the typical Representative never will see 54 again.

Their average age will be 54.9 years, 2.7 years older than their counterparts in the last Congress.

Idaho Democrat Frank Church, 32, will be the "baby" of the Senate and its only member without a previous record in public office.

Senior Senator in age, not only in this Senate but in all American history will be Sen. Theodore Francis Green (D-R.I.), a spry 89.

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Eisenhower To Meet Leaders of Congress

Washington — (U.P.) — President Eisenhower will meet with both Republican and Democratic congressional leaders next month to discuss next year's legislative program.

The President, who held similar sessions in December last year and in 1954, will meet with his cabinet and GOP legislative leaders Dec. 13. The meeting will be broadened the following day to include Democrats, who will control the next session of Congress.

Mr. Eisenhower will give the congressional leaders a preview of his January State of the Union Message to Congress. He presumably will seek advice on certain specific points to insure congressional cooperation with his program.

FPC Snake River Dam Hearing Nears End

Washington — (U.P.) — A Federal Power Commission hearing on the application of Pacific Northwest Power Company for a license to construct two Snake River dams appeared to be nearing an end today as opponents of the private construction wound up their arguments.

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 initials for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with an eye to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.

Earthquakes To the Editor: A friend of the writer's who lives near Ashland, related to us a few years back how his grandfather, an early day settler of Jackson county, had witnessed an earthquake here around the year of 1865, that caused the trees in the valley to sway and wave several minutes duration.

Looking up the early record history we find that a remarkable earthquake did great damage to San Francisco in the year 1865. Also recorded up to 1919 are 4467 quakes on the Pacific coast. Probably around nearer 5000 to date? A ride over Highway "40," from Truckee, Calif. and Donner pass, a few years ago showed the plainly marked remains of "bucking" the center line of the pavement down the mountain slope for several miles.

Bert Kissinger, 520 Boardman, Medford, Ore.

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