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Beware the S.P. Lobby

It would be a pious idea if the members of the 1957 legislature,—particularly the new ones—would take a "refresher course" in the fine art of lobbying before they leave for Salem.

The lobbyists ever since the election have been working on the member list of the new legislature; it is only fair that the legislators should start doing some work on the lobbyists, and their methods.

YES, the final returns were no sooner in than the lobbyists started some skillful researching on the new membership. They will soon have them separated—the sheep from the goats—before the session opens. The boys who can be depended upon to go down the line for their own special interests, will be put on one side of the company ledger; and those who can't be, will be put on the other.

Then the latter group will be most carefully screened and if any of them have a weakness for stud poker, Porterhouse steak or Bourbon-on-the-rocks, etc., etc., such vital statistics will be carefully tabulated and the plans for attack meticulously prepared in advance.

THE most adroit and best prepared as well as the richest lobby will be the fully trained and resourceful lobby of that "barefoot boy from Wall Street" officially known as the "FRIENDLY Southern Pacific."

The Oregon branch of this "billion dollar public utility" will have their legislative experts pay special attention to any measures thrown into the hopper affecting rail transportation, and particularly anything that might subject them to the sort of utility control in THE INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE, that prevails, for example in that wise and more sophisticated state of California.

THEY will break a leg,—even two of them, if necessary—to keep the situation in Oregon just as it is, with the Public Utility Commissioner denied any real power to tell the railroads what they must do and not do, in the public interest, but giving the railroads complete freedom to cheapen their service, reduce it or abandon it entirely, and let the public be damned and whistle dirges through the days, weeks and months,—probably the years,—for any relief.

At least that is the way it has worked here in Oregon as everyone knows and probably throughout the SP system, for that matter, wherever, as in Southern Oregon, a rail monopoly exists.

WE can't predict all the plausible and persuasive arguments that will be brought by the SP lobbyists against any change, but we believe there is no reasonable doubt, the desirability of profits and the sanctity of private enterprise will be among them. The horrors of "creeping socialism" will probably not be overlooked, but we imagine the chief talking-point will be the terrific losses the SP suffers through its passenger service particularly in Southern Oregon, and how close bankruptcy would be, if the SP followed the example of such prosperous and public spirited railroads as the Santa Fe, the Union Pacific, the Hill Lines and other common carriers, who instead of weeping and wailing over their losses in passenger traffic, set about to reduce them by improving and modernizing the service, instead of abandoning same.

TO answer that "bankruptcy" sob-story one needs no argument except to cite the financial record of this transportation colossus over the past few years. If it is losing so heavily on its operations as claimed, how come the value of its stock has raised from 8 to 54, it has not missed a dividend in over 10 years, has a stupendous cash reserve, and pays altitudinous salaries to all of its top-brass?

More than that. Only four years ago its stock was split two for one, and considering this fact last year it earned \$16 a share!

SO we trust that when the "Friendly" SP wipes the tears from its pink and well-nourished cheeks and starts in on its inability to do what its rival railroads have done, members of the legislature thus approached will show that they are not as dumb about high finance as the SP "slicker approach" would indicate, and proceed to come up with a few figures from the company's own financial statements to refute such nonsense.

Finally it is to be fervently hoped that the representatives of Jackson County—and all other counties in the state for that matter—call attention of the "SP" lobbyists to the fact that after all, they don't represent the SP corporation or any other corporation, but the people of their districts and the state, and their constituents are interested in better railroad service and the promotion of public welfare FIRST—and the increase of profits and selfish interest of the SP comes in a poor second, if not an "also ran."

Not that they—the people or their representatives—have any objection to legitimate profits, but they do object to a public utility, that persists in sacrificing the quality of its service to the public to its greed for higher profits.—R.W.R.

Lyle Wilson Urges Cabinet Testimony
Topeka, Kan. —(U.P.)—Lyle C. Wilson, United Press Washington manager, said Monday night better government would result if cabinet members were required to defend and debate major legislation before Congress.

Addressing the Topeka Press Club, Wilson said there were some instances when the "separation of the Executive and Legislative branches of government operates to invite executive irresponsibility."

Wilson said such an example occurs when "a president submits to Congress an impossibly complex and numerous program for speedy disposition, or submits a single proposition merely for its political effect."

Nasser Fails in Big Objective Of Leadership in Middle East

By CHARLES M. McCANN
United Press Correspondent

The Middle Eastern dispute has failed to bring about one development for which President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt has long hoped.

That is the unity of the so-called Arab world of which Nasser wants to make himself the leader.

Events since Israel attacked Egypt and Great Britain and France moved into the Suez Canal have emphasized the disunity, rather than the unity, of the Arab countries.

The nations of the Arab League, and the three Arab countries of French North Africa, are united in their enmity to Israel and to British and French "colonialism."

France, Syria at Odds
But their interests are divergent in some important aspects. And when the present situation cools off, Nasser may find himself farther than ever from realizing his ambition.

The latest development is a serious dispute between Iraq and Syria, both members of the Arab League.

Iraq is being accused of trying to stir up rebellion against the government of Syria. Dispatches talk of the possibility of an open break between the two countries, and of the possibility that Iraq may move more troops into neighboring Jordan.

But the real point at issue is Iraq's fear that Syria may be taken over by its strong pro-Communist faction, led by Lt. Col. Abdel Hamid Seraj, chief of army intelligence.

This fear is fully shared by the United States, which sees no way in which it can do anything about it.

Nasser is more and more linking himself with Soviet Russia. He started out by getting arms from the Soviet bloc to use against Israel. Now he has made Russia his ally against Britain, France and Israel.

If a pro-Russian government managed to seize power in Syria, the situation in the Middle East would become even more serious.

One factor in the Middle Eastern line-up is that Iraq is a member of both the Arab League, formed against Israel, and the Baghdad Alliance, which was formed as a barrier against Russian aggression in the Middle East and Southwest Asia.

League Is Moslem
The Arab League is an alliance of Arab countries, all Moslem. The Baghdad Pact is an alliance of Moslem countries, with the addition of Britain. Britain's fellow members are Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Pakistan.

The United States tried hard to get other Arab countries to join the Baghdad Pact. They failed, largely because of Nasser. He saw the pact as a threat to his own dream of making himself Mr. Big of the Middle East.

When the present situation cools off, it may be found that Turkey, not Egypt, will emerge as the dominant Middle Eastern country.

THE betting is strong, however, that this current target will be missed, and that the final figure of requested defense appropriations will be \$41.5 to \$42 billion. The main reason for thinking this is the President's own reaction to the rising dangers of the world situation.

It is being dramatically whispered about, that the President has at last begun to argue with his Secretary of the Treasury's stand on the budget. The able and persuasive Humphrey always compares the federal finances to a house wife's budget, and claims that the government runs into trouble by overspending just as any housewife must.

But on a recent occasion, the President is reported to have replied to Humphrey that even the most prudent housewife might borrow money to pay the doctors, if her only child got polio. And this Presidential answer, though mild enough in form, reveals a change of outlook that might almost be called a great event.

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Matter of Fact
ANOTHER FEW BILLIONS

Washington — The double crisis overseas is strongly and usefully influencing the course of the annual and bloody battle at the Pentagon over the defense budget.

A rise of \$4.5 or even \$5 billion in defense spending is now quite possible, whereas a year ago anything of the sort would have been inconceivable six weeks ago.

Curiously enough, the massive prospective increase in the defense appropriations the President will ask from Congress will not permit a proportional increase in modern combat units in the American armed forces. The reason for this seeming anomaly lies in the way "defense economies" have been made in the last few years.

One high authority has remarked, perhaps too sardonically, "that if Charles Wilson and George Humphrey had managed their corporations as they have managed their departments of the government" they'd probably be in the dock this minute.

Maybe that is going rather far; yet it certainly promotes understanding of the defense problem to use the corporate analogy that this cynic used.

IN BRIEF, when the Eisenhower administration came to power, the American defense and foreign policy machinery was like a corporation, with an enormous surplus. The surplus took the form of many billions of forward appropriations voted by Congress. The Administration at once began to make "savings" by spending these long term appropriations for current purposes.

Last year, therefore, an increase in foreign aid spending had to be requested, in order to replenish the aid program's depleted working capital.

In corporate terms, in other words, the management has been steadily running down the surplus. It has also been declaring handsome dividends to the stockholders in the form of tax cuts. And by asserting that these tax cuts were made possibly by "economy," the management has also in effect been claiming that the dividends came out of profits instead of surplus.

As would happen with any corporation that followed these peculiar practices, the day of reckoning has now been reached at the Pentagon. In order to retain the existing armed forces and to provide them with modern weapons (which of course will cost more than the now-obsolete weapons cost), Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson would probably have to ask Congress for nearly \$8 billion more this year than last year.

LAST year, Wilson asked for and got \$36.9 billion of defense appropriations. He spent about \$1.5 billion more out of his dwindling surplus. He deferred all sorts of immensely costly and now desperately urgent re-equipment programs, in the Navy and Air Force, particularly, which cannot be deferred any longer. And he was lucky, too, in that the fabulously expensive guided missile projects were only barely entering the stage of large orders for hardware.

It can be seen, therefore, why Wilson now needs something like \$8 billion more this year—unless he is willing to reduce our defense forces.

Reducing the defense forces, and relying more completely than ever on the absolute weapons of course the first administrative impulse. It lay behind the furor over the so-called Padford plan. It had much to do with Secretary Wilson's repeated insistence on armed force manpower cuts. Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey is still driving for a reduction of forces. For the sake of Humphrey's budget,

Moroccan Strike Threatens U.S. Lines

Casablanca, Morocco —(U.P.)— A wildcat dock strike by Moroccan workers threatened today to cut the supply line to three U.S. Strategic Air Command advance bases.

Western observers feared the strike might be a forerunner of political pressure to withdraw American atomic bombers from this advance position within striking distance of inner Russia.

The dock tie-up follows demands by the powerful Istiglal independence party, which holds a majority of the posts in Premier Si Bekkai's coalition cabinet, to oust the U.S. bases from Morocco.

Des Moines, Iowa —(U.P.)— Sen. V. Carter, a Leon, Iowa, Democrat, has announced he will contest the Nov. 6 House seat election he lost to Republican Rep. Karl M. LeCompte by 1,621 votes.

Carter notified Gov. Leo A. Hoegh officially of the contest Monday. The contest will include a recount of the ballots which the official vote canvass showed LeCompte received 58,031 votes to 56,409 for Carter.

It is up to the House of Representatives to determine who shall be seated in such contested elections.

Portugal Cutting Security Forces

Lisbon, Portugal —(U.P.)— Portuguese Minister of Interior Dr. Trigo de Negreiros said Monday night that Portugal is practically free of Communism and is cutting down its security police force.

The minister told the Foreign Correspondents Association that in the nation of nine million persons, there are only 76 political prisoners. He said Portugal's comparative immunity from Communism deserves emphasis as being distinctive.

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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.

Wanted—Change in Suez Policy

To the Editor: To think clearly, so as to winnow away the chaff of loose thinking that brings to light the grain kernel of truth and reason, is quite some accomplishment. To my most studied and earnest belief, it is not being done by the heads of our government concerning the Britain-France-Israel invasion of Egypt. While our own policy-makers were at their usual watchful-waiting and hopeful thinking, Israel aware of a Soviet scheme of "Korea" in Egypt, and with Arab predictions along her border, charged in and opened up the stinking mess for the world to see. England and France, tired of diplomacy's start and hasty retreat, barged in and brought things to such a head that something practical had to be done.

Despite the fact that such moves showed up immense Soviet war supply dumps in Hitler-like Nasser-land and contiguous ones with hordes of Russian-trained war personnel who scamped out or tried to like so much vermin, the UN and too many others seemingly forgetful of the terrible rape and murder of Hungary, doing little if anything about it, are now venting their wrath on Britain, France and Israel for doing something, showing, plainly at least the strangle hold the Russians have been secretly but surely clamping onto the free world.

Just one threatening note from "Bulg & Crisil," Europe's nickname for Bulganin and Khrushchev, was handed our administration chiefs, not a word appeared to be said to Russia of her completely unwarranted attack on Hungary, but instead, the heat was put on Britain, France and little Israel to get out of Egypt forthwith, and is still being demanded under threat of economic retaliation. When, not only the lives of others, but our own existence as a free people, is hanging in the balance, will we ever be able to think and act clearly?

F. J. Clifford,
121 West Main St.,
Medford, Ore.

New Meter Rule Scored

To the Editor: The fundamental purposes of parking meters presumably are (1) to facilitate shopping, thereby increasing the volume of sales for the merchants, and (2) to raise revenue for the city.

It seems to me that enforcement of the ordinance calling for a \$2.50 fine for feeding a meter, will slowly strangle the "goose that lays the golden egg," the goose being out of town trade. Consider a typical family of three shoppers who save up errands for a weekly trip to Medford. They park as near to the stores as possible, then separate to shop with one being responsible for feeding the meter. Large bundles are carried to the car. When all have finished, they meet at the car to go home.

Under the new ruling, one must each hour play "Pussy wants a corner" with dozens of other cars, each seeking a new meter to feed. How shall the driver notify each member of the family as to the new location? What of the increased traffic hazards and the nerve strain, not to mention the extra blocks of walking?

There may be others like me who will be forced to do Christmas shopping by mail-order catalogs.

Here's a suggestion: if you value our trade, why not issue courtesy cards to bona fide shoppers, which would allow a reasonable time limit at one meter? The cards could be fastened to the steering column. Let's try to find a means of solving the parking problem other than by driving trade away.

Ethel M. Thompson
3642 Hillsinger rd.,
(Five miles from Medford.)

Nearly Half of Bills In Congress Said 'Private' in Nature

Washington —(CQ)— Capitol Hill continues to devote much of its time and energy to little-known individuals and obscure patches of land, no matter what the newspaper headlines say.

Almost half of the laws enacted by the 84th Congress (1955-56) were private laws; they dealt with specific persons and places, not with general public policies.

And unless Congress revises its procedures in 1957, threats of war and national and international tensions will not change this ratio appreciably.

Of the 1,028 bills enacted in 1955 and 1956, 893, or 46 per cent, were private bills. Of the 16,782 bills introduced, 5,788, or 35 per cent, were private bills.

These private bills fall into three general categories: claims, immigration and naturalization, and land titles.

Claims bills grant monetary relief for property damage or personal injury for which the federal government has been responsible. Immigration and naturalization bills grant aliens residence or citizenship, or prevent their deportation. Land bills issue and transfer titles to public lands.

Generally, reports Dr. George B. Calvey of the Legislative Reference Service, Library of Congress, claims bills account for about one-half of all the private bills introduced, immigration and naturalization measures about one-third and claims bills about one-tenth.

During 1956, Representatives sponsored 1,203 of the 1,736 private bills introduced. Only 533 were introduced by Senators, but the House generally is responsible for weighing most private bills. The Senate usually ratifies House action.

The heavy load of private bills led President Eisenhower to suggest last Feb. 8 that the Attorney General be given "limited discretionary powers" to grant relief in alien cases. He said the immigration bills alone had placed upon him and Congress "undue and largely useless burdens." The President must sign or veto the private bills passed by Congress. In 1956, he signed 403 of them and vetoed seven.

Three major suggestions have been made to stem the tide of private bills. One would establish a joint committee—or special committees in each chamber—to handle nothing but private bills. Another suggestion would be the most simple — ban all private bills. A third suggestion, and the one President Eisenhower seems to agree at least partially with, would be to delegate immigration and deportation cases to the Immigration and Naturalization Service and land title cases to the Bureau of Land Management.

But opponents of delegation fear the combination of fact finding, prosecuting and judicial authority in an executive agency. They warn the agency might lose sight of individual rights. (Copyright 1956, Congressional Quarterly)

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