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Salem Report

Although today is the 40th day of the 1957 session of the state legislature, it is still too early to foresee with any clarity whether it can be classed as a successful session, or as a "bust."

Veteran newsmen, legislators and state officials in Salem are fairly unanimous in their judgment that the session has gotten off to one of the slowest starts in many years. There are a number of reasons for this.

One reason is a general lack of experience of many members, who require several weeks to "learn the ropes" of legislative procedures, and the intricacies of the system of committees, where most of the important decisions are made.

Another, though perhaps less important reason, is the partisanship more in evidence this year than at any session since the 1930s.

IT IS a fact, however, that in the House, now controlled by the Democrats, there is less partisan haggling than in the Senate, which is split 15-15. The Democrats know they can win on party issues in the House, and the Republicans realize it is of little use to fret about it.

But even in the Senate, the divisions have been strictly on party lines in only a few instances.

The parties hold caucuses frequently to plan strategy in party matters, and while partisanship doesn't boil to the surface on many matters, the fact of the potential division is always present.

The change in administration, too, has brought many other changes in the Capitol and the state office buildings, although this has been largely limited to the top administrative positions, leaving the career civil servants in their jobs.

BEN DAY, former state Senator and rancher from Jackson county, is now completing his final year in law school at Willamette university. After years of farming and ranching in the Sams Valley area, and several sessions in the legislature, Day decided to take the added schooling necessary for a law degree.

He is scheduled to graduate in June, take the state bar examination during the summer and, if successful, will return to Medford in the fall to open his law office.

During this session he has been retained by the state organization of court reporters to do some lobbying for them. They want tighter formal standards for court reporters, and are asking the legislature to make the standards and examinations official.

WITH the introduction of two railroad regulation bills this week by two Jackson county legislators, the railroad lobby can be expected to step up its activity.

The lobby is headed by Harold Turner, dean of the legislative lobbyists, who is highly respected and largely responsible for its potent influence. It is not a flamboyant lobby, but it is highly effective.

Turner, who has said that this will be his last year in Salem to represent the interests of the railroads, is liked personally by most legislators who know him—and he knows almost all of them. He is an affable and gregarious individual, but his power does not stem from that fact. It derives from the local agents of the five railroads he serves.

Say a bill calls for legislation which could hurt the railroads. The call will go out through the organization to every city in Oregon in which there is a railroad office. The local men, almost always liked and respected in their own communities, start working among their friends and business associates, who in turn then will let the legislators from their own districts hear from them in support of the railroads.

Faced with this home-town reaction, which can and sometimes does amount to a deluge of mail on a single issue, it is a strong-minded legislator indeed who can continue in his support of the measure—unless there is a stronger countervailing force.

For, after all, legislators feel bound in most cases to do what their constituents want. And if all the evidence available points in one direction, that is the direction they are most likely to follow.

SPEAKING of lobbyists, there are more of them at this session than there are legislators. Many of them serve a highly useful function, in providing expert and detailed information in their fields.

One of the most respected this year is Lester Adams of Jackson county, manager of the Oregon Milk Producers. He uses no high-pressure tactics, seldom if ever even offers to buy a dinner for a legislator, but is always available to provide facts and figures on the dairy industry.

In common with other members of the so-called "third house" of the legislature, one of Adams most important functions is to "bird dog" bills—that is to check measures which could have a bearing on the milk producers, and to keep them informed.

WITH the hundreds of bills on all imaginable subjects, all of which are potential laws, the lobbyists constitute a highly effective means of making it possible for people with interests to protect to know what is going on, and how it will affect them.

It is one way in which citizens can exercise their constitutional right to petition their government, and to make their own voices heard.

An unofficial count of lobbyists at this session, taken when the legislature convened, showed 98 of them, compared to the 90 members of the two houses. There probably are a few more than this who stay in Salem much of the time. And of course there are hundreds of people who come to Salem once or twice during a session to confer with members on one or more bills in which they have a special interest.

As private citizens, they probably could not be classed formally as lobbyists, but they are certainly engaged in lobbying activity.—E.A.

American Communists Just Might Be Near Break With Moscow

By ROSE DRUMMOND Washington — It would be shortsighted as well as inaccurate to say that the Communist party in the United States can never free itself from Moscow control.

It could—and maybe it will. I wouldn't accept the Communist party's own say-so that the event has already taken place. We'll know when and if the Communist party quits being the tool of the Soviet Union. It will take more than vague words in a vague resolution to prove it.

There is, of course, every reason to welcome, as the lesser of two evils, the nationalist trend which some Communist parties are taking, a trend away from total Kremlin subservience. Tito started it and Titoism became so strong that Moscow has had to pretend that it likes it. Nationalist Communism has won out in Poland. It almost carried Hungary totally outside the Soviet orbit until the Kremlin pulled the iron reins up short.

There are visible stirrings in the Communist parties throughout western Europe for some independence of Soviet dictation. In New Italy?

And now some — perhaps most — of the leaders of the Communist Party in the United States say they are for the same thing and at their recent national convention in New York they passed a resolution which their press officer (reporters were not allowed to cover the proceedings at first hand) interpreted as meaning that they were "freeing themselves from the Moscow party line."

Are they really? Or are they only appearing to do so because it seems momentarily prudent? No political party in this country which puts loyalty to a foreign power ahead of loyalty to the United States, which is controlled by and is willingly the instrument of a foreign government and whose leaders find excuses to condone the Soviet repression of the brave Hungarians who dare fight for their freedom — no such political party can expect to win credentials with the American people.

This is why Robert S. Bird, the sagacious New York Herald Tribune correspondent covering the Red meeting in New York, wrote:

"As matters now stand, (Communist) Party policy-makers may or may not follow the Moscow line as they choose. One effect of the switch from traditional enmeshment to Moscow dictates will be to give the party an unaccustomed freedom of maneuver in shifting to new positions to meeting changing situations in this country. The party hope is that it will help in ending its present isolation on the American scene, and its low prestige where it formerly had strength."

Not Broken The American Communists have not broken with their Moscow idols but have only "resolved" that they might do so. How precise was the resolve? Well, you can decide. The American Communists who said they wanted to be independent of Moscow favored a resolution which stated that the Communist Party in the United States "interprets and applies the principles of Marx, Engels and Lenin, and those who said they

wanted to be dependent on Moscow wanted to substitute the words "creatively applies" of "interprets and applies." There it is. The phrase "interprets" won out — and all the anti-interpret Communist leaders were put back on the Party executive committee.

This distinction may sometime prove to be full of difference. "Deviationist" is a rough epithet in the Communist vocabulary. Perhaps the majority of American Communists is asserting its right to be deviationist if it wished. But it remains to be seen whether this is a prudent tactic.

The Crooked Line The judgment of the Subversive Activities Control Board that the Communist Party is in fact a "Soviet tool" rests upon a long record of acts, not on words alone. When Russia attacked and annexed part of tiny Finland, the American Communists thought it was dandy. They hated Hitler one month and loved him the next — after Stalin made his deal with Hitler. When the Nazis attacked Poland and France and Britain, but when the Nazis attacked the Soviet Union, then to the American Communists it was time to resist — not before.

I wouldn't want to deter the American Communists from going to the aid of the Russian people, but I suggest we wait to find out whether they really are.

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Israeli Impasse, New European Customs Union, Top Weeks News

By CHARLES M. McCANN United Press Correspondent The week's good and bad news on the international balance sheet:

The grave situation brought about by Israel's refusal to withdraw its invasion forces from two Egyptian areas reached its climax in the United Nations.

The U.N. General Assembly was ready to consider "sanctions"—against Israel if it persisted in its refusal. Six Western European nations agreed to form a historic union for cooperation which is intended to provide a common market, without tariff barriers, for 160 million people.

A delegation of economic experts from Poland arrived in the United States to seek American credits of \$100 to \$150 million to strengthen the "independent" Communist regime of Wladyslaw Gomulka. The negotiations were the first of major importance which the United States has entered for years with any Communist country but Yugoslavia, which like Poland had broken away from Russian domination.

Israel had defied demands by the U.N., and personal appeals by President Eisenhower to Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, that it evacuate the Gaza and Aqaba Gulf Coast areas which it seized when it invaded Egypt last Oct. 29.

Israel demanded that, as the price of withdrawal, it be given guarantees: (1) That means would be provided to prevent guerrilla raids on Israel from the Gaza area on the Egyptian frontier; (2) That its ships would be given the right of free passage through the Aqaba Gulf, com-

manded by Egyptian shore batteries, to its port of Elath. President Eisenhower said in an earnestly-delivered television and radio speech to the American people Wednesday night, that unless Israel gave in "the U.N. has no choice but to exert pressure" against it.

The U.N. assembly was called to meet this afternoon to decide whether to exert the pressure—possibly in the form of penalties which might cripple Israel's economy.

The prime ministers of France, West Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg agreed to enter a customs union which would provide a tariff-free common market for their countries.

The plan, fulfillment of a dream of statesmen for many years, was calculated eventually to result in a virtual merger of their economies.

Under the agreement, the six

countries also will pool atomic energy resources for peaceful purposes. Poland succeeded last fall, under the skillful guidance of Communist chieftain Gomulka, in breaking away from Russian domination. But its position was still precarious. Gomulka had succeeded in overcoming the resistance of those Polish Reds who opposed the breakthrough. But Poland's economic weakness remained an acute danger, in that it might lead to fatal popular discontent.

The United States, after long consideration, decided that it was justified in aiding Poland and thus strengthening the breach in Russia's satellite empire.

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

Needless Extravagance To the Editor: I read some time ago that our president believes, and has maintained, for the umpteenth time that an income tax cut would be "unwise at this time." He has stated that "prosperity is up to the people." And yet no matter how we wage-earners work to provide our families with the necessities of life, our government relieves us of nearly one fifth of our earnings before we even see it!

And if our government continues as in the past taxes must surely go even higher to keep abreast of federal spending. If it is unwise to give our own people enough of their own earnings to enable them to buy those things our generation has become accustomed to taking for granted as necessities, then it is also unwise to take from us in order to give even greater sums to foreign countries, and for the purpose of such unnecessary things as \$25,000 retirements for ex-presidents, and office help furnished the best of his days.

Also, adding thousands to our vice president's already huge tax free expense accounts so that he might travel around this country getting set for the next election. There is also a small matter of a "more private" home in Washington for our president.

Where is it going to end? I thought our government was trying to reduce the budget? In case you didn't know, "We the people" will have to pay for this sort of nonsense. No wonder our taxes are the highest ever in peace time, and with no relief seen in the immediate future. In fact there never will be unless we, you and I, write to our congressmen asking them to put a halt to all such unnecessary extravagance. Our country certainly cannot afford it.

S. J. Dodge, 504 Austin St., Medford, Ore.

The Indispensable Man To the Editor: In these tumultuous times, when nations are seeking superiority, races seeking supremacy, religious organizations claiming to be the "only way," political parties continuously bickering over who is right, social climbers who have lost their sociability to the common man, and individuals who are suffering from a superiority complex, the following poem by an unknown author is a "thought seed," that would do well to lodge in all hearts, regardless of race, color, creed, political party, or social standing.

Sometime, when you're feeling important, Sometime, when your ego's in bloom Sometime, when you take it for granted That you're the best man in the room; Sometime, when you think that your going Would leave an unfillable hole. Just follow this simple direction And see how it humbles your soul.

Take a bucket and fill it with water, Put your hand in it up to the wrist. Take it out and the hole that's remaining Is a measure of how you'll be missed.

You may splash all you wish as you enter, You may stir up the water galore, But stop it and just in a minute, It looks much the same as before.

Now the moral of this little lesson Is to do the best that you can, Be proud of yourself, but remember— There is no indispensable man.

Mrs. Helga Mitchell Rt. 1, Box 7B Jacksonville, Ore.

From a "Mended Heart" To the Editor: A president had polio, and a March of Dimes research program (8987 collected per victim annually) has licked polio. Another president has had heart disease. When the monies collected for heart research can be advanced from \$1.20 annually per victim, as now, to \$957, perhaps we can lick heart disease too.

The money someone gave for research in heart disease and heart surgery saved the life of the writer when he was at the point of death. I therefore want to aid the drive of heart organizations to raise money for heart research. Some 100,000 persons in the United States today have had heart surgery; and the majority of these feel similarly obligated, especially the 2,000 such persons united in a nationwide organization called "Mended Hearts."

Wives should understand that the conquest of heart disease will reduce their chance of premature widowhood. Also, the better able a wife is to take care of her husband's heart, the better able he will be to take care of her—and the longer.

About 10,000,000 persons in this country currently have heart disease in some form (1 out of 16), including 500,000 children of school age. In 1955, diseases of the heart and circulation were responsible for 53 per cent of all deaths at all ages. Of those who died, 29 per cent were under 65.

Because of research in heart disease, a famous president who had a heart attack also made a dramatic return to the living. Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if, in his name, Americans rallied to support the Heart Fund? Any reader who wishes to help by becoming a doorbell ringer should address the Heart Fund, care Postmaster, his own community.

George Lawton, Ph.D., 7 West 96th st., New York City.

Editorial Comment

RUSH FOR THE DEAD RADICALS

Mrs. Charlotte Rush of Denver, Colo., is a bulwark of the dead-radical-worshipping Daughters of the American Revolution.

For 11 years now she has officiated at a yawning little Lincoln Day ceremony at the Colorado Industrial School for Boys, wherein the good gray DAR presents a new flag to the little boys sitting out naughtiness in the cooler. It is a high point of the year for Mrs. Rush and her sister 100 per cent Americans, but not for those who are forced for one reason or another to attend, as this writer once was.

But Mrs. Rush's glory — her patriotic fulfillment — is no more.

This year she put her foot in it with a comment that she never allowed "a Mexican boy" to carry Old Glory during the festivities. Her comment reached print through the auspices of an unaccountable newspaper reporter, probably a son of immigrants.

All something broke loose. The press deluged with indignation. The governor banned the DAR from all state ceremonies. The Colorado House of Representatives memorialized against Mrs. Rush. (The Mexican vote is potent in Colorado.)

All of which prompted apologies from Mrs. Rush and the Denver chapter of the Daughters. But why apologize, ladies? If that's the way you feel why be sorry about saying it out loud?

Worshippers of ancestors must

Have A Heart

This Sunday (February 24) has been designated as Heart Sunday, the day on which our neighbors will call at our homes to receive our contributions to the 19