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Bill White and the Oregonian

The Portland Oregonian reminds us at times of the late William Allen White, editor of the Emporia Gazette, one of the most famous small town dailies of the Twentieth Century.

Once when "F.D.R." was campaigning in Kansas (we believe for his third term) his train stopped at Emporia, and "F.D.R." always quick to recognize familiar faces, immediately spotted "Bill" White in the crowd.

He gave him a smile and a wave of the hand, and beckoned him forward. Editor White came up to the observation platform and the two shook hands warmly, the President asking how he (the Kansas editor) was feeling.

"Better than I deserve Mr. President," said Mr. White, with one of his characteristic and disarming, cherubic smiles.

The President smiled back, and then said with a toss of his head, half to "Bill" and half to the crowd:

"Perhaps you are right. Between campaigns Bill you are always for me but when election day comes around, you go all out for whoever is opposing me."

THAT was true.

The present writer happens to know that Editor White had little use for President Harding as a candidate or as an occupant of the White House and the Emporia editor admitted that Governor Alf Landon was not of presidential timber. But in both cases when election day approached he was going all out for them and urging their election over their Democratic opponents.

IN THIS direction Will White was very much like Senator Borah of Idaho, who between elections, was one of the most severe critics of ultra conservative GOP policies, but when election year came around, he stood up and was counted as an important member of the Grand Old Party's "V.I.P." supporters.

MR. WHITE partially explained this stubborn refusal to place principle above party, when he finally decided not to join Theodore Roosevelt in the dramatic Bull Moose secession, when he wrote in effect:

"It is just about as easy for a KANSAS Republican to leave his party, as it is for a GEORGIA Democrat to leave his."

OF COURSE times have changed since then, the political climate ditto. Today many Southwesterners do not feel dishonored and disgraced if they vote Republican, and the same goes for many northern Republicans, including black ones who suffer from no tinges of conscience when they vote Democratic.

BUT to return to the Oregonian.

During the recent campaign one searched in vain for any kind words in that paper for public power as against private power. All-out support was given Secretary of the Interior McKay and Congressman Ellsworth whose records were 100 per cent against what the latter accepted as "creeping socialism" and the former wished to replace with the phoney "partnership plan."

BUT what do we read today? Not once or twice but many times.

The Oregonian recently hailed the completion of the federal power and navigation dam at The Dalles, for example, with great enthusiasm. It proclaimed that while it will sacrifice sundry scenic and historical values in the forming of a 25 mile lake, east of The Dalles, there will be ample compensation of "solid values" such as 1,200,000 kilowatts of electric power, and greatly increased navigation on the Columbia from Astoria to Indian rapids. Moreover it believes some day this too will disappear when another federal project the Oregonian now approves "John Day," will yield another 1,105,000 kilowatts of power, while navigation for seagoing ships and barges from the Pacific ocean to Pasco, Wash., in the Inland Empire, will be, for the first time in history, established.

Finally the Oregonian warmly endorses the effort of the Columbia Development Association in its effort toward persuading the U.S. Congress to put up the funds needed to get John Day project started, and convince the members that the "top heavy" U.S. budget can stand this strain concluding those with "the real welfare of the Northwest at heart" will wish them well.

"AMEN and Hallelujah!"

That has been the plea of the Mail Tribune for many years. It is the old time-honored conflict between those who have the "real welfare" of Oregon and the northwest at heart, and those who worship the false gods of selfish, private monopoly and increased private profits.

FOR good measure the Oregonian also approves the "Green Peter" federal power project not as recommended by former Congressman Ellsworth as a partnership, but as proposed by the highly regarded Corps of U.S. Army Engineers—a federal multiple project.

Needless to say the Mail Tribune welcomes the powerful and enterprising Oregonian into the ranks of those few newspapers of the state who have refused to swallow the tempting bait of "partnership."

HOWEVER we still have our fingers crossed as far as the purely partisan angle of the situation is concerned.

At least we will be greatly—and pleasantly—surprised if, in the congressional race next year, our "favorite MORNING paper" departs from its long established line of conformity and supports those candidates who have "fought and bled" for public power and Oregon's betterment against those who have NOT.—R.W.R.

Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop

IN HARSH LACONIA Paris—For any Western visitor with a reasonable freight of intellectual curiosity, the iron Soviet society has the same sort of intense interest that the harsh, drilled, policed, planned society of Sparta used to have for the free Athenians.



The secrecy of Sparta was one part of this fascination. Another part was Sparta's stability. Another was the long record of Sparta's military successes. Pericles' oration over the Athenian dead, the noblest utterance in all the history of language, was in some sense answer to those of his own city who too much feared Laconian power.

This historical comparison was much in this reporter's mind in the concluding weeks of his long visit to the Soviet Union, for a rather simple reason. In brief, had the very interest and novelty of the experience somewhat distorted one's judgement? And had one not perhaps been too much struck by the successes and too little observant of the failures?

IN SEEKING to sum up the experience, I can at best give a

In the Day's News By FRANK JENKINS

If you want to keep the Middle East situation clear in your mind, you must remember this: Israel's promise to the United Nations general assembly on Friday that its troops will make a prompt and full withdrawal from both the Gaza Strip and the Gulf of Aqaba area is just one more step in the negotiations to bring about (if possible) a settlement under which the Israelis and the Arabs can go on living with each other in this strategic and long-troubled area of the world.

The promised Israeli withdrawal from these areas that were occupied by its military forces last fall isn't itself a settlement. What it amounts to is a LONG step on the part of Israel toward an agreement under which everybody will TRY to live together more or less peacefully.

IF YOU want to understand the extent and the importance of the step that Israel has taken, you'd better get out your map and give it some careful study. Start with the Gaza Strip, which is a long, thin corridor of Egyptian territory thrusting up between Israel and the Mediterranean sea. What it amounts to is a dagger pointed at Israel's heart—as you can see for yourself by studying the map. From this corridor Egypt can launch constant harassing bandit raids into Israeli territory. Raids of this sort have been one of the chief sources of trouble in the past.

TAKE a look next at the Gulf of Aqaba, which leads up from the Red sea to the southern tip of Israel. The Gulf of Aqaba by-passes the Suez canal and gives water access to Israel, thus enabling her to carry on commerce with the Asiatic world (including oil) in the event that the Suez canal (which is ALL in Egyptian territory) should be closed to Israel. In their brief shooting war last fall, the Israelis occupied strategic points along the Egyptian side of the Aqaba gulf. Occupation of these points would enable them to KEEP THIS WATERWAY OPEN to their commerce.

SO—You can see for yourself—They are GIVING UP A LOT when they agree to get out of these areas that are so important to their security and to the future of their country. In effect, they are throwing themselves on the mercy of the United States, which is seeking to arrange a settlement of the Middle Eastern problem—which is largely a problem of bringing about a situation in which the Israelis and the Arabs can live in some semblance of peace.

THIS is the Big Question: Can such a situation be brought about?

WELL, it CAN be. But I think everyone will agree that if it is brought about there will have to be a POLICEMAN.

THAT raises another question: Who will be the policeman? It can't be Russia. No one trusts Russia. Russia would take advantage of her job as policeman to GRAB THE MIDDLE EAST.

We don't want the job.

THAT leaves United Nations as the only acceptable candidate. United Nations is WEAK to the point of impotence. A policeman without power isn't much good.

So—It seems probable that in the end we will supply the strength to enable United Nations to carry out the policing job that has to be done. That, of course, is a guess, but it looks like as good a guess as any.

Editorial Comment

THIS WILL BE GOOD FOR EVERYBODY

It has become apparent in the opening days of the Senate investigation of racketeering within organized labor that the rank and file members of organized labor are going to suffer greatly for the misdeeds of some of their leaders. All the sordid stuff that is coming out in the senate committee hearings will be grist for the mills of the labor haters. They will not differentiate between the good and the bad unions and union leaders. The misdeeds of a few will be translated to a blanket condemnation of all organized labor. Will the public return a blanket indictment? We hope not.

Certainly the most significant member of a union whose leaders are guilty of racketeering and worse cannot escape some responsibility for the existence of those leaders. He has only one vote, but he has a vote.

Beyond that point we must move slowly and carefully. We must recognize that some unscrupulous labor leaders have become so powerful that they would not hesitate to blot out a member who threatened to expose their wrongdoings. Knowing that he would lose his job and possibly invite violence upon himself and his family, a union member could not be expected to stand up alone and demand an accounting. It is easy for some labor haters to say that they, in the same situation, would fight the battle alone. Deep in their hearts, they know that they would not.

What a committee of the United States Senate is going to do to the members of organized labor could not do. Nor could the honest, responsible leaders of organized labor do it. Such men as George Meany, head of the AFL-CIO, have taken tough measures against unclean union leadership and have threatened unions with expulsion if they don't clean their houses. But Mr. Meany recognizes that such action will not remove from power the powerful racketeers that call the shots for some unions.

We are convinced that this Senate investigation will do what the honest men in labor could not. The members of the Senate committee have no fear of recrimination and when they have hung all the dirty linen on the line for everybody to see the racketeers will be as unacceptable as lepers at the bargaining tables.

This was a long time coming. It was inevitable that it would come. Organized labor has so gained in stature that many of its unions are demanding an equal voice with owners in the management of business and industry. Unions have not earned the right to that responsibility. This Senate investigation is going to prove that it will be an ordeal for many honest men in organized labor. But in the end it will be the best thing that could have happened. It will force organized labor to be responsible through honest, fair and responsible leadership. That will be good for labor, for industry and business and for everybody else.

—Pendleton East Oregonian.

From Washington

By Roscoe Drummond ISRAEL WITHDRAWS—WHAT NEXT?

Washington—The withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Egyptian shores of the Gulf of Aqaba and the Gaza Strip does not wipe the Middle East crisis from the map.

It is an indispensable beginning, but it does not of itself guarantee Arab-Israeli peace; it simply provides the opportunity to build toward it.

Either Egypt must be ready to match Israel's obedience to the United Nations or the United Nations must be ready to take those steps to insure the peace it has long timidly neglected.

The presence of Israeli forces on Egyptian soil, however acute the provocation, made it almost impossible for the United Nations to act even-handedly. There were just too many conflicting pressures to permit it to mediate between two wrongs, with the Israeli invasion being the most immediate and visible wrong.

This is why the negotiations had to be shifted from the United Nations to Washington, and it deserves to be put strongly into the record that Secretary of State-Dulles contributed the creative proposal which persuaded Prime Minister Ben-Gurion to comply with the U.N. resolution without advance U.N. guarantees.

IT BECAME increasingly clear during the last two weeks: That the mechanism of the United Nations was making no headway toward breaking the deadlock with Israel.

That the U.N. had gotten itself into the position wherein all it could talk about was sanctions, while all Israel could see was the defense of its rights by force. That a fresh approach was absolutely necessary and ought to be tried in an atmosphere which recognized that all the wrong was not on one side.

This was the point at which Mr. Dulles took over direct negotiations, mostly with Abba Eban, the extremely able Israeli ambassador to the United States. Mr. Dulles knew that he couldn't offer any conclusive guarantee that the United States would convoy Israeli shipping through the Gulf of Aqaba to the Israeli port of Elath. But he did assure Israel that the United States would put an American ship through the Egyptian-bordered international waters which he believed would establish the right of free passage for all nations.

This was imaginative diplomacy. While President Eisenhower gave unwavering support to his Secretary of State, the principal credit rightly belongs to Mr. Dulles. The tendency of the Israelis at first was to minimize the importance of the Dulles assurance, to turn it aside. But the more Ambassador Eban saw its implications, the better he liked it. He, more than anyone else, persuaded Ben-Gurion that Mr. Dulles was making a solid, significant and far-reaching offer. The implications were these:

If American shipping could ply the waters of the Gulf of

Aqaba, Egypt could not prevent Israeli shipping from doing the same unless it resorted to new belligerency.

If Mr. Dulles could say, as he did at a press conference, that President Eisenhower would have the right to use force to defend an American ship using these waters for innocent passage, Prime Minister Ben-Gurion would have the right to use force to defend an Israeli ship if there was renewed interference.

THE significant fact is that Israel, by withdrawing its troops in response to the U.N., is putting itself morally, politically and internationally in the right.

If there are new border raids against Israel, if there is new Egyptian interference with Israeli shipping, then Egypt will, it seems to me, be putting itself morally, politically and internationally in the wrong.

The need is to look ahead, not back. The Arab nations may have come nearer to recognizing that Israel is not going to be pushed into the sea. The climate at the U.N. is improved and there seems a firm determination to prevent any return to the lacerating conditions which preceded the invasion.

The Israeli agreement is not going to usher in paradise in this area of tense and bitter conflicts. But it recaptures the initiative on the side of peace. It begins a momentum which, if pressed, can lead to further gains. One immediate by-product will likely be the easier and quicker approval of the Eisenhower Doctrine in the Senate—now that the irrelevant issue of sanctions against Israel is removed.

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Knowland Refuses Presidency Committal

Washington—(U.P.)—Senate GOP Leader William F. Knowland says he isn't opening or closing "any doors" on seeking the 1960 Republican presidential nomination for himself.

Knowland said Monday night that his decision not to run again for the Senate does not mean that he is returning completely to private life.

Asked if he could conscientiously say that he would not seek the Republican presidential nomination in 1960, Knowland said: "I don't think any person could answer that question . . ."

As to whether he will run for governor of California, Knowland said reporters would have to "speculate for some time until I've had a chance to return to California."

About one-fourth of American Indians on reservations in the U.S. are centered in Arizona and New Mexico.

Real Estate Boards, top spender in 1955, had not filed its final 1956 report by Jan. 20, the legal deadline. It reported \$29,446 for the first half of 1956, compared to \$61,377 for the same period of 1955.

Lobbyists Report Less Money Spent in 1956 Than in Past 11 Years

By Congressional Quarterly Washington—(CQ)—Lobbyists reported spending less money in 1956 than at any time in the past 11 years.

Congressional Quarterly's tabulation of official spending reports filed with Congress shows that 263 groups reported expenditures of \$3,787,734 to influence legislation.

That was almost \$500,000 less than the previous low of \$4.2 million, reported in 1954. The highest total was reported in 1950—about \$10.3 million.

During 1956 a special Senate committee had lobbying practices under investigation, but spokesmen for leading pressure groups discount suggestions that the probe reduced pressure activity.

Committee Effect Seen

Chairman John L. McClellan (D-Ark.) of the Lobby Investigating Committee said its work "may have had something to do" with the decline in reported spending. McClellan said that "lobbying in the ugly sense did decline last year, but not lobbying in its proper, informational sense."

The Committee is drafting new legislation aimed at improving the checks on lobby spending provided in the 1946 Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act. Its report is due April 30.

The biggest spender in 1956 was the AFL-CIO, with \$145,181. The merged labor union was followed by the Association of American Railroads, which reported \$124,585, and the American Farm Bureau Federation, which said it spent \$115,507.

Changed Methods The Lobby Regulation Act requires groups whose principal purpose is to influence legisla-

tion to file quarterly reports on their spending. But the lobbyists themselves complain that the law is not clear on its reporting requirements.

Four groups that were big spenders in previous years—the National Association of Electric Companies, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, the Council of State Chambers of Commerce and the National Association of Letter Carriers—reported considerably lower amounts this year.

Spokesmen said they had changed their reporting methods in 1956 to "reflect more accurately" their actual lobby spending.

The National Association of

Counsel with Mr. Insurance FRED BRENNAN
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Flight o' Time

Medford and Jackson County History from the files of The Mail Tribune 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years ago.

10 YEARS AGO

March 5, 1947 (Wednesday) City council approves appointments by Mayor Clarence Meeker of M. N. Hogan, Noble Vincent and Glenn Jackson as city budget committeemen. From Arthur Perry's Ye Smudge Pot column: Metropolitan market pages report the rain has delayed the delivery of palatable but socially obnoxious green onion.

20 YEARS AGO

March 5, 1937 (Thursday) Medford Corporation wages of all employees has been increased an average of 12 per cent over previous wages, James Owen, general manager says. Pupils of the Eve Benson studio will be presented in a spring dance recital at the Craterian theater tonight.

30 YEARS AGO

March 5, 1917 (Sunday) Snider Dairy and Produce company and Jackson County Creamery, cooperating with County Agent Robert Fowler urges those interested in dairying to attend meeting at Irrigation building in Talent tonight. Repair work on Jacksonville highway, damaged by floods, is partially completed, according to County Engineer Rynning.

40 YEARS AGO

March 5, 1917 (Sunday) Plot against the life of President Wilson is uncovered in Hoboken, N. J., according to detectives who arrest a German reservist from Mexico. From Local and Personal column: Mrs. Myrtle Day of Gold Hill is in Medford today to buy a Saxon Six car.

What's Your I.Q.?

Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good.

- 1. Name the American statesman who made a great electrical discovery in 1752.
2. Portugal occupies the western part of what peninsula?
3. Bible: Which event marks the end of the later Galilean Ministry of Jesus?
4. Which state is partly divided by Chesapeake bay?
5. In what country is the city of Hanoi?
6. An electric motor will not operate in a vacuum; true or false?
7. When you order a dinner in a restaurant, item by item, are you ordering "table d'hotel" or "a la carte"?
8. What is a "white elephant party"?
9. Does the colloquialism "upwards of" mean just a particular number or "more than"?
10. "Home—the nursery of the infinite."—Channing. Is "infinite" the correct word?
1. Benjamin Franklin. 2. The Iberian peninsula. 3. The discoloration on the Bread of Life. 4. Maryland. 5. Indo-China. 6. False. 7. "a la carte." 8. One where the guests each bring an unwanted article, to be exchanged by barter. 9. More than. 10. Yes.

One of the largest flat top mountains in the world is Mesa Verde in southwest Colorado. At 10,000 feet in altitude it is so level that car can cross its 53-acre expanse.

The human liver molds itself gradually to conform to the shape of the neighboring viscera of the body.