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

10 YEARS AGO
March 31, 1947 (Monday)

Permission to operate an FM radio station is granted Medford Printing Company, publishers of the Mail Tribune, by the Federal Communications Commission.

From Arthur Perry's Ye Smudge Pot column: The dollar now buys less than it did 27 years ago. There is now less for a dollar to buy than 27 years ago.

20 YEARS AGO
March 31, 1937 (Wednesday)

City ordinance prohibiting outdoor freedom of dogs unless accompanied by attendants during the next three months goes into effect tomorrow.

First police school of a series will be held in the council chambers of city hall today, sponsored by bureau of municipal research at University of Oregon.

30 YEARS AGO
March 31, 1927 (Thursday)

A Wild Flower and Bulb show will be held at 7 p.m. Friday at the Medford hotel.

Southern Oregon apiarists are urged to attend meeting Saturday to form a beekeepers association.

40 YEARS AGO
March 31, 1917 (Saturday)

Three one-act plays are presented by members of the Medford Center of the drama league at St. Mark's hall.

A patriotic rally will be held at the Presbyterian church Sunday.

What's Your I.Q.?
Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good.

1. Is the city of Naples on the east or west coast of Italy?
2. Bible: "But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth"—whose son?

3. Pure gold is 14, 20, or 24 carats fine?
4. Tetanus is another name for arthritis, diabetes, or lockjaw?

5. In England, what is a drug-store called?
6. Was Gilbert Stuart a famous artist, statesman, or writer?

7. Prof. Raphael Lemkin of Duke University coined a new word for the English language; it was used in the indictment of the 24 German war criminals. What is the word?
8. What is the sweetest fruit grown in the U.S.?

9. Which President hanged two men?
10. "He that loses his honesty has nothing to"—what?

Answers: 1. West coast. 2. "His son." 3. Twenty-four. 4. Lockjaw. 5. Chemist's shop. 6. Artist. 7. Genocide (from the ancient Greek word "genos" meaning race or tribe, and the Latin "cide" meaning killing). 8. The date. 9. Grover Cleveland. 10. "lose."—John Lyle.

More than two million persons are employed in the nation's public eating places and the industry ranks third in the number of persons who are given steady employment.

Is Dave Beck "Through"?

The Oregonian declares with impressive finality that "Dave Beck is through." We grant he should be. And we have no doubt that eventually he will be.

But we would question the Oregonian's present tense. As of today our belief is that the doughty, burly and resourceful "Dave" has only started to fight. And no one who knows him and his record questions his fighting ability.

There is even less question about his resources. Not only is he a millionaire in his own right, but he has, as recently demonstrated, many millions at his command, and not only those of his teamsters union, but he has extremely cordial relations with certain Big Banks and Big Business.

Sears-Roebuck is not the only multi-million dollar corporation that granted special favors to the "teamsters." The record will show the Ford company, General Motors and Montgomery Ward also on the list. With the sensational growth of the teamsters union, and the increased importance of "trucking" in the national economy, none of the "Big Boys" wanted to tangle with the "Big Boss" of the I.T.U. And as the evidence to date indicates, there is little doubt they were willing to pay a price for it.

OF COURSE the action of AFL-CIO in suspending Beck and demanding his trial on charges of mishandling union funds will be a blow to the Seattle Boss. But we predict far from a fatal one.

Other unions and their leaders have suffered a similar "disciplinary action" and have survived. All but one of them we believe remaining in the AFL-CIO fold. Under Beck's strong and skillful direction the teamsters may do the same.

In fact there is the crux of the present situation,—whether the rank and file of the teamsters will repudiate Beck or stand by him. There is no question what they should do, for their own sake, that of union labor as a whole, as well as the welfare of the country.

But what they WILL do remains to be seen.

THE main trouble as we see it, is the fact that the teamsters union is a sort of "race apart," a very clannish and scrappy organization, rather like an army of over a million men, with a lot of pride in their outfit, proud of what they have done for IT, even more proud of what it has done for THEM, and up to the time of this "exposure" extremely loyal to the Big Boss and to all his men.

His "men" in this case have been not only the teamsters "chiefs of staff," but all officers including the "non-coms," from corporal up to the five-star general, the "Big Chief" himself.

THERE is a formidable group. And if that loyalty continues then to get rid of Dave Beck will take more than suspension from the AFL-CIO, more fear than an Internal Revenue indictment, it will take an uprising, a mutiny in the teamsters ranks.

And for a mutiny to be successful requires a strong, fearless and skillful leader. WHERE is there such a leader? We hope one is found.

But until one is found, while we don't deny Dave Beck is "on the way out," we think it foolish to kid ourselves that it won't take a long time and a lot of fighting before he gets there.—R.W.R.

The Tax Revolt

We liked what President Eisenhower had to say about the present uprising against his record-breaking budget.

He did not deny some small reductions might be made but he did maintain that the budget AS A WHOLE, represented the necessary demands of this growing democracy, so it may play its proper part in domestic and world affairs.

That, we believe, is true. Seventy-one billion-plus is a huge sum, but this is a huge country, and its demands as a leader of the free democracies of the world, financially speaking and otherwise, is even "huger."

We don't deny the President's claim that the budget was the result of exhaustive study and intelligent examination, and we shall be much surprised if in spite of the Byrds and the Hoovers, there will be any drastic reductions made, when the budget reaches final passage.

FOR some weeks reports have been coming over the wire from Washington that "business men" are overwhelmingly opposed to the Eisenhower budget and not in the memory of most legislators has there been so violent an uproar against a Republican administration's spending program.

The American people dote on extremes and this reported avalanche of protest is probably based on fact.

BUT there are other facts to consider. And one of them is a survey conducted by the "Opinion Research Corporation" which was hired by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, an organization which can hardly be accused of a "spend, spend and tax, tax" phobia!

And what are the conclusions of the US C of C? Here are some of them, quote:

"Businessmen fail to see the connection between national legislation and their own welfare."
"The budget debate is healthy and needed, but it is being increasingly obscured by misleading claims, if not downright nonsense."

AS JUST one illustration, some of the most vocal against the massive budget are businessmen in the steel, oil, railroad, trucking industries.

"But the price hikes put through or on schedule in these industries alone will tend to RAISE the

Senate Racket Probe Getting to Heart of Matter, Writer Says

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune Correspondent

Washington—The Senate Labor-Management Racketeering Committee has its teeth clamped firmly into the meat of the problem it set out to investigate most observers being convinced here this past week.

This happened when the committee veered away from the gamey subject of Portland "call girls" and dug deeply into the financial maze of the head of the country's largest labor union, Teamster President Dave Beck.

The Portland hearings were useful in themselves to demonstrate the ready use Teamster officials have made of local racketeers in the Pacific Northwest for personal gain, and how they offered financial backing to law enforcement officials on condition that certain illegal activities in which they had an interest would be shielded. This was pretty largely an exposure operation by the Senate committee, designed to give the watching nation an education in "how it's done in the rackets" and to help out honest local law enforcement officials who had previously been handicapped in taking effective criminal action where it was warranted.

To Heart of Matter

But since congressional investigations are generally justified on the premise that federal legislation may result from the findings, the committee went to the heart of the matter this past week in tracing the alleged misappropriation by Dave Beck of vast sums of Teamster funds, the dues of John C. Truckdriver. Even assuming Beck has repaid the union, the \$300,000 to \$400,000 he used for personal advantage, the committee has shown the easy financial virtue of top Teamster officials who have millions of dollars at their command from the dues of their 1,500,000-member organization.

budget beyond even where it is! The Defense Department is a major buyer of industrial goods. Every penny hike in industrial prices, every boost in transportation costs will add to the defense load. This Congress could slash the budget by more than a billion and still the actions of businessmen could more than erase the saving.

"If businessmen are as upset about this budget as the headlines say, they might find it wholesome to weigh the implications of this survey of themselves by their own Chamber. And they might find it even more wholesome to stop talking fanciful budget froth to each other and start grappling with the facts of finance in '57."

CONSIDERING the source that is surely a devastating indictment of those leaders of the "business world" who are flooding Washington with propaganda, demanding billions be sliced from the current budget and as a result they be favored with a radical reduction in taxes.

If the U.S. Chamber of Commerce can question the soundness of that protest and justification of the so-called businessmen's revolt, it must be a questionable one indeed.

We would agree with another comment on this report, namely, quote:

"According to their own remarks, a large percentage of businessmen who do have ideas about legislation, would when it comes down to cases, tolerate no reductions in construction of public works, new and better highways or aids both to education and the farmers."

In other words they do make a big howl about taxes but when it comes to doing what will have to be done to reduce them they are exceedingly backward about coming forward.

It all goes back to the old—and in this department, familiar—saying "It all depends upon whose ox is gored."

There undoubtedly is a country-wide revolt against high taxes and increased federal expenditures—particularly in foreign fields,—but when the chips are down a surprisingly small number of the "protesters" will demand any reductions in the expenditures which will benefit their states and communities and therefore, themselves.—R.W.R.

April Fool

We have been caught on this one three times before—in 1954, 1955 and 1956. But if you are one of those still believing that tomorrow (April 1) your federal gasoline tax is going to drop back to 1 1/2 cents a gallon, as the law says at the moment, or are gleefully contemplating cheaper liquor, made possible by a cut of almost 14 per cent in the tax:

Wake up, John Taxpayer! Congress raised the gasoline tax last year from 2 cents to 3 cents a gallon, raised other highway users' taxes, and earmarked the whole package for the next 16 years to pay for the new highway program.

Wake up again, John! Even the distillers aren't arguing very loudly for a cut in the tax on liquor from \$10.50 to \$9 a gallon when the government is planning to spend nearly \$72 billion next fiscal year.

Wake up again. The federal tax on that pack of cigarettes is going to stay at 8 cents—not fall to seven cents—a pack. And the tax on beer is still going to be \$9, not \$8, a barrel.

So wake up, taxpayers and in words of the old refrain: "April First is past, you're the biggest fool at last."—E.R.R.

Matter of Fact

By Stewart Alsop

AFTERMATH OF BECK

Washington—The Teamsters Union hearings on Capitol Hill have been wonderful theater.



Stewart Alsop

They have had suspense, emotion, spicy revelations, comic relief, and above all a superb cast of characters. Dave Beck, Teamsters' boss, has been brilliantly cast in the central role. His pink pate positively glittered with righteous indignation and injured innocence as he lunged arrogantly back at his Senatorial tormentors, like a snarling badger beset by a Terrier pack. Senator McClellan's dry monotone had precisely the proper "dragnet" intonation, as he forced the infuriated Beck again and again to take refuge in the Fifth Amendment.

The supporting players were equally well cast. Committee counsel Robert Kennedy, for example, has been fine as the idealistic young crusader. Even Senator McCarthy has done a reasonably convincing imitation of McCarthy, although the old, familiar growl sounds, somehow, like voice from the grave.

But, although a political reporter these days often finds himself poaching on the preserve of the drama critic, the Beck hearings have been more than good theater. They have been comparable in some ways to the Pecora investigations in the last year of Herbert Hoover's Presidency, which exposed the arrogance and irresponsibility of an important segment of big business, and set the backdrop of the New Deal.

The Beck hearings are also likely to have important consequences.

One possible consequence was suggested by Sen. Irving Ives of New York, when he warned Beck that the open shop for union labor might be "the upshot of what you are doing today."

Already, some 18 states have passed the so-called "right-to-work laws" which gravely weaken an employer's bargaining position by outlawing the union shop. Until now, despite a concerted drive by conservative interests ( spearheaded by former Congressman Fred Hartley of Taft-Hartley fame) the unions have been able to head off right-to-work legislation in most of the important industrial states.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

At a news conference in Salem the other day, Governor Holmes reiterated his support of the so-called "key district" bill, which proposes to change the pattern of distribution of the basic school fund in Oregon. The objective of the bill, he told the legislative correspondents is to "make the distribution in such a manner that all kids in poor districts will get the same educational opportunity as the kids in the rich districts."

LET'S take a sharp look at this business of so distributing the state's basic school support money that "all kids in poor districts get the same educational opportunity as the kids in the rich districts."

IT IS probably true that in Oregon there are richer school districts and there are poorer school districts.

But— In general— These areas of inequality in Oregon occur WITHIN COUNTIES.

IN MANY counties of Oregon, as everyone knows, there are school districts that have within their borders a lot of valuable timber, or some big railroads or other public service corporations, that produce a lot of tax money. It often happens that in these districts the school population is relatively small.

There are other districts that are not so well off. The bulk of their area may consist of property whose assessed value is low. It may be that in these districts the school population is relatively high. But, personally, I can't believe there are any COUNTIES in Oregon that are underprivileged and poverty stricken. I am reasonably certain there is no county in Oregon whose people would be willing to confess they are so poor they are unable to educate their children and have to have help from other counties.

banks from making risky speculation loans. After Congress probed the electric utility industry and uncovered details of Sam Insull's vast and abusive control of utilities from coast to coast, it passed the Rayburn-Wheeler utilities holding company act of 1935 which required utilities to report their finances to the Securities and Exchange Commission and brought dissolution of the Insull empire. The long-range benefits of these 20-year-old laws, for the banks and utilities as well as the public, justifies the hope that today's headlines about Dave Beck will herald tomorrow's acts of Congress to the permanent benefit of labor and the country.

But after Beck's amazingly arrogant performance, it will be a brave state legislator who will dare to vote against right-to-work laws. There is also a real chance that Federal right-to-work legislation will pass this Congress, in the form of an amendment to the Civil Rights Bill, if the bill reaches the floor.

IN THE Beck-produced atmosphere, such an amendment might well pass. Again, if the "clean elections" bill reaches the floor, an amendment sharply restricting all labor's political activities will certainly be introduced, probably by Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona. And again, such an amendment would have an excellent chance of passing, thanks to Beck.

This suggests why the Northern Democrats are almost as worried by the Beck performance as Beck's fellow labor chiefs—this despite the fact that Beck and most of his cohorts have supported the Republicans. Republican like to charge that the Northern Democrats are supported by an immense slush fund provided by the unions. Actually, under-the-table money from labor for Democratic candidates is a small fraction of the political contributions of business, most of which goes to Republicans.

BUT it is true that Democratic candidates in many Northern industrial states, notably Michigan, Wisconsin, and western Pennsylvania, are greatly, and in some cases wholly, dependent on labor money and other help from labor. Even without legislation to restrict labor's political activities, Democrats in such areas will suffer.

They will be hurt because labor will be very cautious in the political atmosphere created by the Teamsters' investigation about taking an active political role. The Northern Democrats will also be hurt simply because they are identified in the public mind with union labor, just as the Republicans are identified with business.

Predictions are even being heard on Capitol Hill that the McClellan investigation, especially if it continues to put on a good show for months to come, will cost the Democrats control of the House in 1958. However that may be, the arresting drama on Capitol Hill is almost certain to have far-reaching political after-effects.

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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 an eye to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.

The Bureaucratic Nightmare

To the Editor: Most of us would not recognize a thousand dollar bill if it came a-tapping at the front door.

It would take a good sized laundry basket to hold the thousand of those bills it takes to make a million. And a thousand of those baskets—can you visualize it?—would mean a billion dollars.

And yet, so casually, the powers that be talk in terms of billions for foreign aid while wringing blood from non-foreign taxpayers.

Why not read "Bureaucratic Nightmare" in April Reader's Digest and then think a bit on it?

E. B. M. (Name on File) Medford, Ore.

A Tip to Merchants

To the Editor: There are a number of subscribers to the Medford Mail Tribune that receive the paper by mail.

We would like to remind the merchants that when they advertise special sale items for "one day only" we are seldom able to take advantage of the sale since we do not receive the paper until the afternoon of the sale if they advertise only one day ahead.

Might we suggest the retail merchant advertise one day sales, two days ahead? Helen Nelson, Route 1, Box 75, Applegate, Ore.

State Egg Law Favored

To the Editor: There has been little publicity given to a bill before the Oregon Legislature which provides for the identification of Oregon produced eggs. Present marketing methods of eggs by quality and size designations gives the consumer part of the story of the eggs they are buying. What they do not know are such things as how old the eggs are, whether or not they have been carefully cooled, refrigerated as a perishable food should be, processed to lengthen shelf life, transported many miles to market from some other area where surpluses have made it economically feasible to ship them, etc.

House Bill 459 is one step in the direction toward providing the consumer with a better knowledge of the background of the egg products they are buying by telling them that the egg was produced in the state. Stores handling Oregon eggs can advertise that fact. Stores can offer other eggs at prices which more nearly reflect their true value.

POTLUCK

(By M-T Staff and Contributors)

If only the rain would let up a bit, things could get going. Farmers have to hold off planting crops because the ground is too wet, and the time has already passed when some crops should have gone into the ground.

The rain in the lower-lying forests and snow at higher elevations (combined with the slack lumber market, which is gradually beginning to pick up) have slowed down logging activity.

The best part of the wet weather is that the outlook for irrigation water through the dry season improves somewhat with each downpour.

But enough is enough. Weatherman, let's have some sunshine!

On Feb. 21, 1927, the valleys' second-worst flood in history (the worst was in 1890, when much of Medford was washed away) occurred. The Southern Pacific (which in those days must have lived up to its designation of "friendly") purchased 200 copies of the Mail Tribune, to be taken to Gold Hill and Ashland for the pleasure of passengers on two trains which were marooned by washouts on the rail lines caused by the high water.

The newspaper business is, among other things, one of contrasts.

One of the area's leading businessmen has a son who is a 4-H member, and who recently was named to write about the happenings of his club for the paper. This he does, and creditably, too. Then he gets his father to mail it to the paper for him.

So, we receive a beautifully printed business envelope, completed with a dictated, perfectly typed (on an electric typewriter) letter from the father, informing us that, herewith, is the report of the Such and Such 4-H club. Enclosed is the report, written out longhand in a shaky youthful scrawl. Hooray for them both.

A philosopher (jg) we know comes forth with the observation, with reference to good and evil influences, that when one touches mud with a glove, it is the glove that gets muddy—not the mud that gets glovey.

A TV repairman was called to a home, the story goes, and was trying to locate trouble in the homeowner's set. A 6-year-old boy stood by, watching the process with considerable fascination. Finally he said: "I'll bet if you'd clean out all those dead cowboys from the bottom of the set it would work again."

This is the place where we feel free to scream and weep about the typographical errors which, despite the best efforts of us all, creep insidiously into the paper. One last week recorded the fact that Mr. and Mrs. So and So at Such and Such a hospital became the parents of a 10-pound box.

One of the Gabor sisters (we think it was Zsa Zsa) was quoted as turning down \$100,000 to shave her head because "One Yul Brynner in Hollywood is enough."

The reverse, Miss Gabor, is also true. One Gabor is enough, if not too much, anywhere. And look at the number we have to put up with! No wonder the name is pronounced with the accent on the last syllable.

Today, alas, is the last day of March. Times not only flies, it scotts. And does anyone still remember whether or not the groundhog saw his shadow Feb. 2, or whether March came in like a lion or a lamb? And does anyone care?

A Salem newspaper reports the story about the man who was marooned on a desert island during World War II and stayed there for years, and therefore had no way of knowing about automobile tail-fins, Elvis Presley and all the other items of "progress" we've seen come to pass.

One day he was wandering on the beach and found a Coca Cola bottle washed up on the sand—a new, king-size one. He took one look at it and started screaming, "Help, I've Shrunk!"

Determination of egg quality by candling is not an exact science and for this reason, tolerances in grades are permitted under the present egg laws. Border line cases are frequent and generally favor the one who does the candling. Flavor, freshness, etc., are not measurable by candling. We believe that locally produced eggs are better than those produced many, many miles from the local market. It is on this premise that the shoppers will get more for their money and better eggs if HB 459 is put into law. We know your legislators will appreciate your comments on this matter.

Barry Brownell, Oregon City, Ore.