

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

Principle Not Principal

The Medford Mail-Tribune, a newspaper of Democratic editorial persuasion, has recently castigated its Republican contemporaries because they still labor Sen. Wayne Morse. The M-T again commends Morse, as Democrats have done consistently and fervently since his party switch, for putting "principle above party."

Not knowing the politics or the fate of State Senator Dan Thiel we can't be sure of why our Clatsop contemporary is "reminded."

But our guess is Thiel must be a former Democrat who switched to the Republican party, and was condemned by the County Central Labor Council and opposed for election—or reelection.

Assuming this to be approximately correct, then who is maintaining that in this instance placing "principle above party" constituted a "vice"?

CERTAINLY not the Mail Tribune. Some of our best friends here in Jackson County were formerly registered Democrats and are now registered zealous and ardent Republicans.

We never complained of their "switch." We did not agree with them—and don't now—but we granted them the same right we granted ourselves, that when they no longer believed in the policies and principles of their party they not only had a perfect right to "switch" but a certain moral obligation.

What we have complained about—and still complain about—are those who condemn such action, and on purely partisan grounds never forget or forgive it, but keep on during campaigns and between them with their same old vicious drum-fire.

We maintain and have always maintained that a Democrat on the basis of principle—NOT principal—please—has the same right to change his party as a Republican, and vice-versa.

The "vice"—if any—is not in leaving a party in which one no longer believes, but in failing to do so.

For that is striking a blow not for, but against a basic principle of free democracy.

Democracy fails when it doesn't accurately reflect the majority will of its people.—R.W.R.

A Political Forecast

Naturally the Republican press is going to convince the American people, if it can, that a vote for any Democratic candidate at the next election will be a vote for Dave Beck, and the type of labor shenanigans he represents.

Yet as of today it seems pretty generally agreed that the basic trouble is not with the labor movement as a whole, or even with the teamsters membership but with the latter's LEADERSHIP.

In other words there is every reason to believe that American labor as a whole condemns the Beck-Hoffa-Brewster type of malpractice as strongly as the members of the McClellan committee (or the Arlington club) be they Democrats or Republicans, and are just as anxious to see an all-out house-cleaning and moral clean-up.

Well why then should they have to suffer for the misdeeds of a few of the higher-ups in a single minority union, and have their political support interpreted as something unworthy and vile?

WELL, they shouldn't. And if there is a house-cleaning within the teamsters and a clean sweep of its present leadership, it is probable they won't.

But if this effort fails, and the Beck-Hoffa-Brewster sort of thing is endorsed by union inaction and allowed to continue unchallenged then we fear the dire prediction of Senator Ives of New York that the recent unsavory revelations will put back the American labor movement for a generation will come close to fulfillment.

Such a retribution would be undeserved and unjust, as far as labor as a whole is concerned. But that, we fear, is the way political reactions work. They are not inclined to be discriminating or judicial, but subjective and emotional, the results not based upon how the rank and file THINK things out, but how they FEEL.—R.W.R.

It'll Take Some Doing

Incidentally the attempt to burn the "Beck" brand into the hide of the Democratic donkey is going to take some doing.

For while the Beck record is bad, and his ethical standards practically invisible, it just happens that he is not a Democrat but a stalwart Republican. He is also a close pal of another "stalwart" Republican, Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin, and in the recent presidential campaign Boss Beck not only devoted his inexhaustible energies, but according to report, a generous portion of his almost inexhaustible financial resources to bring about the defeat of the Democratic presidential candidate and the victory of the candidate of the G.O.P.

SO in the realm of "guilt by association" which has been such a favorite political weapon in the Republican arsenal under the aegis of Joe McCarthy, the heels of the stubborn old donkey promise to be more than an adequate defense against any smear-trumpeting that the rampaging and rambunctious pachyderm may consider it advantageous to indulge in for the sake of votes.—R.W.R.



"Fess! If you find a yo-yo in there, it's mine!"

Matter of Fact

DR. VAN VALKENBURG'S PELLETS



Washington — A bitter and significant row is now going on about the role of basic scientific research in the defense of the United States.

Dr. Van Valkenburg is a young scientist, until recently with the rather obscure University of Utah. Last year, he got a Defense Department grant of a few thousand dollars for an odd little experiment which might appear to have precious little to do with defense.

Dr. Van Valkenburg used a shaped charge technique to fire plastic pellets at constantly increasing speeds into wax targets. As the velocity increased, the pellets, as might be expected, simply penetrated deeper and deeper into the wax. Then, when Dr. Van Valkenburg fired a pellet into the wax at the remarkable speed of 8,500 miles an hour, a queer thing happened.

INSTEAD of penetrating deeply into the wax, the pellet exploded, making a large crater on the surface of the wax. He tried it again, and always, at speeds over 8,500 miles an hour, the same thing happened, for reasons which must remain mysterious to the layman. The importance of Dr. Van Valkenburg's little experiment may seem equally mysterious. And yet it might—just might—change the history of the human race.

The world is about to enter the age of the ballistic missile. The Soviets are testing medium range ballistic missiles at the remarkable rate of five a month. It is hoped that this country will fire a test version of the very long range intercontinental missile, known as "Atlas," this year.

The ballistic missile has been known as the "ultimate weapon" because, until Dr. Van Valkenburg came along, there seemed no conceivable defense against it. Atlas, for example, will travel half round the world with its nuclear warhead at a speed of 16,000 miles an hour, or thereabouts. Trying to bring it down with another missile would be about as futile as shooting at a very high flying goose with a 22 rifle.

THE way to bring down a goose, of course, is to shoot it, in range, with a shotgun. Dr. Van Valkenburg's experiment suggests that a ballistic missile could be brought down in rather the same way. Another missile or a satellite vehicle could be exploded electronically in the path of an oncoming ballistic missile. A fragment of the exploded missile or satellite, coming in contact with the oncoming missile at speeds far greater than the magic 8,500 miles an hour, would have the mysterious explosive effect. It might thus be expected to explode or cripple the ballistic missile.

The Air Research and Development Command is proceeding with experiments along this line, which are of course highly secret. But Dr. Van Valkenburg's original experiment was not secret at all, simply because it was an experiment in pure scientific research, with no foreseeable military application at all.

DR. VAN Valkenburg's little experiment, which may have such far-reaching consequences, thus illustrates the real meaning of the row in the Pentagon. Secretary of Defense Charles Wilson prides himself on being a practical man, and, as he has said, he sees no reason why the Defense Department should fool around with finding out "why the grass is green," or such nonsense. Defense should concern it-

self only with research leading to practical military applications.

TO THIS end, Wilson has appointed Frank D. Newbury, a septuagenarian engineer who shares his views, as overlord of all Defense Department research and development. The appointment has already led to a major clash between Newbury and the Defense Science Board, and the resignation of one distinguished scientist. Other scientists working for the Defense Department are unhappy to the point of despair.

Their despair is understandable if one ponders the tale of Dr. Van Valkenburg's pellets. For virtually all the great advances in the terrible new weapons, from the atomic bomb on up, have derived directly from basic scientific research. Modern weaponry is not, alas, as simple as tooling up a new General Motors model.

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In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

I suppose everyone has been horrified by the tragic stories—startlingly numerous in recent years—of children trapped in refrigerators. In an effort to eliminate, or at least reduce, these catastrophes that tug at everybody's heartstrings, the national bureau of standards has been carrying on a research program in the hope of developing doors that can be opened from the inside.

IT HAS just announced that there is no foolproof device for solving the problem. The two best safety devices so far developed by the bureau with the cooperation of refrigerator manufacturers, it says, are a knob to open the door from the inside and a latch that releases the door when pressure is applied from the interior of the refrigerator box. But, a spokesman for the bureau adds, tests of 201 children have indicated that only about half of them are able to utilize the devices and escape. Even that, of course, will be immensely helpful and the bureau predicts that these new developments will be accepted by the industry within a short time.

IN OUR modern civilization, we must certainly make our numerous gadgets as safe as it is humanly possible to make them, but I can't help wondering if we can afford to rely wholly on automatic devices for making our children safe.

Won't it be far better if along with all the automatic safety we can build into our machines and our appliances we teach our youngsters to AVOID these dangers?

WE HAVE to remember that life NEVER was wholly safe. In the early days of the American frontier, children had to be taught to stay close to the cabin. There were savages and wild animals that must be avoided. There were creeks and rivers where they might get drowned. It was never safe for a child to play around a mule's heels, for there are times when a mule just WILL KICK. And so on.

WE MUST keep dangers away from our children wherever we can, but at the same time we must TEACH OUR CHILDREN TO KEEP AWAY FROM DANGER. Instead of relying entirely on automatic devices that will cause a refrigerator door to come open if a child should happen to be trapped inside, it will be much, MUCH better, it seems to me, if from the time they are able to crawl we teach them never, NEVER—under ANY circumstances—to crawl inside a refrigerator.

ON CALL

Portland, Me. —(U.P.)— Police officers here can leave their patrol cars to investigate crimes and still remain "on call." Cruiser cars have been equipped with radio devices that enable dispatchers at headquarters to honk the horns or flash the lights of parked patrol cars to summon the officers back to their vehicles for radio messages.

Turkey's Hardening Attitude Complicates Cyprus Settlement

By CHARLES M. McCANN United Press Correspondent Turkey is becoming the key country in the dispute over the future of the eastern Mediterranean island of Cyprus.

Britain is now making a new attempt to negotiate a settlement with the Greek-Cypriote islanders, the Greek government and the Turkish government.

To that end, it has released from exile on an Indian Ocean island Greek Archbishop Makarios, leader of the islanders who demand that Cyprus be handed over to Greece.

Turkey's Attitude Hardens So far, Britain's negotiations have not gone very far.

For one thing, no basis for a settlement acceptable to Makarios and the Greek government—or even a basis for negotiations—has been found.

But there is another big obstacle. The attitude of Turkey is hardening steadily. As the situation stands now, Turkey is most unlikely to accept any settle-

ment which would be acceptable to Makarios, as the leader of the Greek Cypriotes, or to the Greek government.

The Turkish government made no secret of its extreme displeasure over Britain's release of Makarios.

Turkish newspapers, which directly reflect the government attitude, are denouncing Makarios as "the instigator, in fact the very personification, of the terrorism to which the Greek-Cypriote islanders resorted to in their campaign for 'self-determination.'"

Turkey's fear is that, in its eagerness for a settlement, Britain may agree to give the Greek-Cypriotes domination over those islanders who are of Turkish stock.

Diplomatic negotiations are proceeding between Britain and Turkey in Ankara, the Turkish capital, and in London.

Ankara dispatches say that if Britain tries to make any concession to the Greek-Cypriotes that Turkey does not approve, British-Turkish relations will be endangered.

The entire situation seems headed for a deadlock. Turkey is most unlikely to recognize any Cyprus settlement in which Makarios takes part. Makarios has said that he will refuse to negotiate with representatives of the Turkish population of Cyprus. Makarios has said further that he will not negotiate unless he is permitted to return to Cyprus, from which Britain still bars him.



Charles M. McCann

Editorial Comment

LET PEOPLE VOTE ON DEATH PENALTY

Should the death penalty be abolished once more in Oregon? This is a controversial question now in issue in Oregon, which abolished executions for murder in 1914, the reverted to them in 1920. It would be submitted to the people as a constitutional amendment under terms of house joint resolution 11 which has passed the house 49 to 7 and now is pending in the senate, where its fate is uncertain.

Simultaneously the question is at issue in California, where the legislature is considering several bills which would either abolish outright or declare a 5 or 10-year moratorium on executions by the state.

The question is being hotly debated in light of the recent last-minute failure of Gov. Knight's effort to stay the execution of Burton W. Abbott, convicted murderer.

The basic question being debated in both states is whether capital punishment is justifiable in general and whether it acts as a deterrent to murder in particular.

The evidence, as brought out in debates in both states and in a recent international roundup by the Associated Press, indicates that capital punishment does not deter murderers and is headed for extinction.

If anything, the murder rate is slightly lower in "no-death-penalty" states (Michigan, Rhode Island, Wisconsin, Maine, Minnesota and North Dakota) and in 38 foreign countries than in death-penalty states.

For example, in the five-year period before the death penalty was abolished in Oregon, 59 convicted murderers were received at the state penitentiary. In the five no-death penalty years only 36 were received.

This (coupled with the possibility of a miscarriage of justice) explains why most prison officials oppose the death penalty. Opponents include Warden Clarence Gladden of Oregon; Richard A. McGee, director of California's department of corrections; Clinton T. Duffy, former warden of San Quentin, and former Warden Lawes of Sing Sing.

The question is vital enough that the people should have another opportunity to pass judgment upon it. For this reason, it is to be hoped that the senate follows the example of the house by voting to submit it.—Oregon Journal.

\$415 Contributed to Teaching Scholarships

Cave Junction — A total of \$415 has been contributed this year by Illinois Valley Parent Teacher associations and other organizations toward Oregon teaching scholarships.

Four PTA groups have given amounts ranging from near \$200 to \$15. Two Civic Women's League recently voted \$50 toward a scholarship for a local high school girl.

CITY DOUBLES PARKING AREA

Albany's new parking commission has a tough nut to crack—ignorance. For example, we were ignorant of the size of the parking problem. But the commission has pretty well established that if all persons who use the downtown area were to be given a parking spot within 500 feet of their destination, at least a third and probably more buildings would have to be cleared off.

That, of course, isn't going to be done. But it points up the looming size of the problem. Other places have problems, too, which may be a fore-taste of things to come in Albany if the commission's findings are ignored.

For example, a department store in Memphis, Tenn., has been unable to buy adjacent land for parking. Realizing the strangling effect on its trade, it purchased the nearest lot several blocks away. Attendants now wait outside the store entrance, help the customer out, drive the car to the lot and return it on request. It's costly, but the alternative was to move into the fringes.

Planning, however, can do the job. In Bloomington, Illinois, population 35,000, offstreet parking stalls were almost doubled in the past four years, from 725 to 1,356 spaces.

There are no real mysteries in the field. The cost and difficulty of solving the problem are slight in a young growing city. They increase in direct proportion to city growth if left alone.— Albany Democrat-Herald.

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The Therapy of "EASTER"

From the most primitive savage to the most highly cultured, man has always had an innate, instinctive belief in a "life hereafter," no matter what its form or its name. Since creation, nothing has brought more solace to the human heart than the inborn certainty that there is a part of our individuality that is immortal. It is the one thing that makes the death of a loved one bearable.

To those who have come in contact with the Christian faith, whether actively or passively, it is this season of the year that emphasizes the fact that we need not mourn as those having no hope!

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Chapel Mortuary

Across from the Courthouse Frank Morgan — Harold Snodgrass FUNERAL DIRECTORS