

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE
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Ambulance Service a "Must"

A city the size of Medford—now more than 23,000 people with several thousand more in the immediate vicinity—cannot afford to be without an ambulance service.

If Medford Ambulance is forced out of business (and unless more people pay their bills it will probably have to cease operations by the end of the month) the city is faced with a dilemma.

Where does the responsibility lie for maintaining such a vital service? If, as is the case elsewhere, it lies with the city itself, how shall it be provided? And who is going to pay for it?

A \$10 flat fee for an ambulance call, plus 75 cents per mile, may seem high at first glance. But it must be considered that the ambulance service has a considerable initial investment, that people remain dependent on it for their living, day after day, and that it is one of the most uncertain of businesses.

The ambulances may be busy as can be for a day or two; then there may be a two or three week period when there are no calls at all. But maintenance and payroll costs keep on just the same, whether or not there is any income.

The rates have to be high enough so that the annual income can be apportioned over the month to make the whole thing a sound operation. It's a cinch that no one's getting rich at it. Two funeral homes here, both of which once operated ambulances, got out of it because of its high costs and headaches.

WHAT, then, can be done?

In Astoria, the city council has taken the service over itself, and will operate it within the city, and outside the city in emergency cases. In Bend, the city first-aid car doubles as an ambulance.

In other cities, an ambulance is made a part of the fire department, or the police department. In some, they are operated by the hospitals, in others by the taxi company.

None of these alternatives is wholly satisfactory, and all are expensive—more so than a private operation where it is largely a "family" type of business, with the principals on duty 24 hours per day, and with assistants "on call."

It might even be worth while and more economical for the city to make an outright subsidy to such an organization, guaranteeing it a certain minimum income each month, simply to ensure that it can remain in business.

ANOTHER alternative might be for the ambulance firm to enter into a contractual relationship with the city, performing the services at a guaranteed rate, and the city then serving as the agency through which bills are sent and collections made. It is possible that this might be the soundest and most feasible—as well as the most economical—of the solutions.

City Manager Bob Duff is at the moment collecting information as to how other cities have solved the problem.

Meanwhile, if Medford Ambulance Service is to remain in business, the short-range answer is simply for people to consider its bills just as important as those sent by the doctor, the grocer or the TV repair man.

Whatever the answer, one must be found, for this area cannot allow itself to be without this vital, life-saving service.—E.A.

And Mercy Flights, Too

Speaking of ambulance service, the time has come once again to call attention to another of the benefits which come of living in Jackson county. We refer to "Mercy Flights, Inc."

Anyone who has lived here for any length of time is familiar with the operation. But for the benefit of newcomers, here is the story, in brief.

"Mercy Flights, Inc." is a non-profit organization, formed in the winter of 1949, the sole aim of which is to provide air-ambulance service to residents of the area as economically as possible. It is the only one of its kind in the world.

IT started out as a community endeavor (we still remember with a warm glow how school-kids donated nickels and dimes, and adults and organizations larger amounts, to get it started), and it has remained one.

It has continued in operation for 7½ years because it has had the confidence and support of people in Jackson county who have paid an annual "subscription fee" (now \$4 per family or \$2 per person, mailed to P.O. Box 550) which guarantees them of free air ambulance service in an emergency, and a reduced rate in non-emergency situations.

This steady income, plus the flight charges made to non-subscribers, has enabled the service to continue. It operates on a close margin, sometimes going into the hole for brief periods, sometimes building up a modest backlog for the purchase of needed parts, equipment and repairs to the planes it operates.

MANY of the subscribers have gotten great and needed service for their small annual fees. Many others have never needed the service, but have received double satisfaction, in knowing the service is there if they ever need it, and in knowing that their annual check has enabled the organization to continue its service to others.

This support has been continuous—a little better one year, a little less another year. This year, so far, has been one of the "less good" years, and it is to be hoped that subscription payments will pick up.

If anyone wants to know whether or not the service is worth while, let him ask one of the patients who has been flown by Mercy Flights' orange and white planes. In 7½ years there have been more than 700 of them.—E.A.



"NEXT TIME WOULD YA ASK THE GUY TO PLAY A FEW COWBOY SONGS?"

Matter of Fact By Stewart Alsop

CIVIL RIGHTS AND 1960

Washington — Among the milling throngs of would-be Presidents in Capitol Hill, there are at least six serious potential candidates. If you examine the effects of the great civil rights battle on the political fortunes of each of these men, you are likely to reach a surprising conclusion. Every one of them, with one notable exception, has benefited in terms of 1960.

The exception is Majority leader Lyndon Johnson. Johnson's status as a flatly does not want the nomination. This is, of course, standard operating procedure for all would-be candidates. But Johnson's closest associates believe him — with one proviso.

Johnson, they say, would agree to run if the only alternative was a candidate who would "tear the party apart."

They name no names, but they obviously have in mind a man totally unacceptable to the South, like Gov. G. Mennen Williams of Michigan, or possibly Gov. Averell Harriman of New York.

Even then, his friends say, Johnson would agree to run only if he felt confident about his health. His friends are more worried about his health than they care to admit. Since the civil rights battle began, Johnson has worked a frenetic 16-hour-day—hardly a regimen a cautious doctor would recommend for a rather recent heart attack victim.

But if Johnson's role in the civil rights fight has been bad for his health, it has been worse for his Presidential chances. If he had not taken command of the forces fighting for a bill "the South could live with," the jury trial amendment would have been defeated. But just because this is so, the Northern liberals, never friendly to the Texan in any case, have been further alienated. And the liberals traditionally exercise a veto power at Democratic conventions.

When the civil rights fight started, Johnson stayed in the wings and kept his mouth shut. That was the smart way to play the game, for a man who wanted to be President. Johnson is a very smart man indeed, and the fact that he moved front and center in the fight suggests that his friends may be right, and that he really does not want the grand prize.

The other serious potential Democratic candidates are Senators Stuart Symington and Hubert Humphrey, who voted against the jury trial amendment, and Jack Kennedy, who voted for it.

Symington stayed carefully out of the limelight throughout the battle, but his vote will on balance help him, since his greatest drawback has been that the Northern liberals have tended to regard him as a Johnson man and a border state semi-conservative. Kennedy's vote, cast after much agonized soul-searching, will hurt him in the North, but it will attract Southern delegate support, on which his strategy is clearly based.

Humphrey's position is curious. He has not hurt himself badly with the Southerners (who generally like him personally) with his fight against the jury trial amendment. Since 1948, he has been the Senate's "Mr. Civil Rights," and his stand was discounted in advance. "Hubert had to do it," the Southerners say.

Humphrey, moreover, is personally close to Johnson, and he is definitely not on Johnson's list of those who would "tear the party apart." Humphrey, who is really more a vice-presidential candidate anyway, is therefore in a good position to become a ticket-balancer with a civil-rights moderate — conceivably, Johnson himself.

As for Minority Leader Wil-

liam Knowland, there has been a lot of talk that his prestige has suffered. Actually, his dogged earnest fight, even though unsuccessful, gave his candidacy precisely the liberal coloration it has badly needed.

But the man who may profit most of all is one who took no overt part in the civil rights debate — Vice President Richard Nixon. For Nixon's role in persuading the President to take a strong stand against the jury trial amendment was no secret to anyone.

On the contrary, the Southerners and their allies regard Nixon, rather than Knowland, as the real villain of the piece. Johnson's recent blast at Nixon is expected to be the prelude of a concerted Democratic attack, whose theme will be that the Eisenhower administration is playing low politics with civil rights, with Nixon as the behind-the-scenes Western demagogue.

Such an attack could rather easily make Nixon, especially in the eyes of Negro voters, the real hero of the civil rights battle. And just because (as Nixon has consistently preached in the Administration's inner circles) the Negro vote is the swing vote in the industrial North, Nixon could well emerge from the battle with more political profit than anyone else.

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.

A Socialist Point of View

To the Editor: An incident occurred about 185 miles southeast of New York in the Atlantic ocean a few weeks ago that focused attention momentarily on what many scientists regard as one of the really important problems of the atomic age—the disposal of radioactive waste. An improperly constructed 3,000-gallon steel drum containing radioactive sodium waste failed to sink and floated loose in the shipping lanes for several hours.

The problem of radioactive waste disposal is not an inconceivable one even now, and scientists, anticipating the time when huge quantities of waste must be disposed of, have given the matter considerable study.

Although, at present, the ocean is the only place on earth where disposal can be considered practical, it should be noted that A. E. Gorman, chief of the sanitary engineering branch of the AEC's division of reactor development, says of the dumping-in-the-sea method: "We've only buying time." He pointed out that the radioactivity of the hottest waste was certain to outlast the steel tanks.

In their discussions of the radioactive waste problem the scientists have overlooked a factor that compounds the danger, to wit, the greed engendered by the capitalist system.

Today, the government handles the hot atomic waste, but the time is not far off when private capital will take over the atomic energy business, and with the business, the job of radioactive waste disposal.

The record of capitalism leaves little ground for hope that the job will be done in a way that will safeguard hu-

Republicans Outplayed for Votes In Civil Rights Bill Amendment

By RAYMOND LAHR United Press Correspondent

Washington — It was three months ago that President Eisenhower muted the uproar by two national radio-TV speeches.

It was two months ago that he told a Republican conference that GOP leaders in Congress and the party organization have a special responsibility to support legislation to carry out the party platform. He made clear his belief that his budget and other parts of his legislative program were based on the 1956 platform.

The administration recently has suffered a series of defeats in Congress. The lingering budget furor and occasional lapses of support from GOP leaders figured in some of these.

man life, today or in the future. The atomic capitalists will look for a "cheap" solution to the waste disposal problem (just as the paper and pulp mill capitalists did even though it means the possible exposure of future generations to radioactive poisons a hundred years or so hence.

Only Socialism, a society that puts an end to the profit motive and gives first consideration to the welfare of its members, can deal with this problem in a way that gives maximum security, not only for the present generation, but for all who follow.

Henry R. Korman, 2640 Garfield st., Longview, Wash.

Answers Editor Hicks — To the Editor: In partial reply to Mr. Hicks' editorial, reprinted in your paper: Why are we asked to "get together" again, and particularly on a plan including a high dam at Lewis Creek in the main river?

We did get together once. Remember? An agreement was reached, proposed by former high-dam proponents after we soundly defeated the high dam, that we all get together and support the Talent and Illinois Valley irrigation projects and power development at the Talent Project and possibly at Cascade George. In consideration of this, those who sought the compromise agreed not to work for a high dam in the main Rogue River until or unless it was approved by all responsible groups in the basin.

As a consequence, we all got together behind the Talent Project and it was approved and is now building. Do our former opponents propose to "wesh" on this bargain after we have loyally carried out our part of it? Does "getting together" mean unconditional surrender on the part of one side—incidentally, the side which won the last battle—or does it mean true getting together?

Mr. Hicks says the disastrous flood of 1955 may have changed the minds of some. The second flood of that winter, in February, serious in the lower valley, merely proved to many of us what we already knew. At that time, while Grants Pass was badly flooded, so little water passed the Lewis Creek damsite that the gravel bars there were not even covered. A dam there would have helped none. We could use flood control, too, but not the kind that completely drowns us out and protects you only from the floods that originate in certain places. Let's get together on Land Management and on smaller dams on the headwaters and tributaries, and protect all of us.

Let's get together on a plan that does not drown out several hundred people, many farms and ranches, a post office, a seven-room school, at least seven motels, four groceries, five service stations, and several other thriving businesses, and still accomplishes much of what you want to accomplish. We can do it by insisting to our servants, our Congressman, Reclamation and Army Engineers, that we want the most that can be accomplished with upstream development.

We can get together if you want to; we can fight again if you don't; and no one will get anything if we have to fight about it.

D. H. Barber, President, Preserve the Rogue Association, Inc., Trail, Ore.

Neither factor was involved, however, in the administration defeats suffered when the Senate amended the civil rights bill. The Republicans were simply out-played in a contest for votes. Makes Personal Plea

The budget, coupled with a congressional feeling that there is public disenchantment with the foreign aid program, has figured in the progressive shrinkage of the foreign aid bill.

Despite a personal plea from Eisenhower the House voted last month to cut the foreign aid bill about half a billion dollars below his request. Although a conference committee representing the House and Senate has restored part of that money, further cuts are in prospect when Congress acts later on the follow-up appropriation bill.

Even before the House killed the bill to provide federal aid for school construction, Vice President Richard M. Nixon described the measure as a casualty of the battle of the budget. It also lacked support from some GOP leaders in Congress.

The bill before the House was not the administration's own but Eisenhower was willing to accept it. When the roll was called on the motion to kill it a shift of three votes would have kept it alive. Three of the House Republican leadership group voted for the decapitation.

Knowland Against Bill

On the other side of the Capitol, Senate Republican Leader

William F. Knowland had already declared himself against the bill. He listed the budget situation as one of his reasons.

Analyzing their defeats on the civil rights bill, administration supporters could offer no explanation except that they lacked the votes. On the two key votes 18 Republicans deserted the administration on the first and 12 on the second, the amendment attaching a jury trial proviso.

Eisenhower was reported to have offered to do anything he could to defeat the jury trial amendment and to have made a telephone call to a few wavering. His Senate supporters were already convinced, however, that the GOP senators they feared would go off the reservation were not susceptible to appeals from the President.

Acting Attorney General William Rogers was quoted this week as having said that the provision would disrupt enforcement of orders of regulatory agencies and all federal courts including the Supreme Court. The Securities and Exchange Commission, the Interstate Commerce Commission, the National Labor Relations Board and the Federal Communications Commission are among those whose teeth would be loosened, if not pulled, if the bill should be approved in its present form.

In this connection, it should be noted that the AFL-CIO Executive Committee, contrary to the action of some individual labor leaders, opposed the amendment despite the sop it appeared to offer to labor's traditional position against the injunction.

The trial-by-jury issue is extraneous to H. R. 6127 (the civil rights bill), the committee said in a statement released before balloting on the amendment. It was initially raised by opponents of the bill in order to attract supporters of civil rights liberties. . . . The (amendment) is aimed not only at civil rights but at the whole range of laws which permit the use of federal injunctions, including labor legislation. The AFL-CIO cannot and will not permit itself to judge the appropriateness of this proposed change in H. R. 6127 because of any possible advantages to organized labor.

The AFL-CIO reaffirms its belief that there should be no crippling trial-by-jury amendment to the civil rights bill.

Congress yet has the opportunity to limit the amendment, if it is retained at all, to civil rights voting cases. This could be done in conference committee.

There is another task, too, for the Senate-House conferees. They should, by all means, eliminate that section of Part I which would impose a fine of \$1000 and a year in jail on "whoever releases or uses in public without the consent of the commission evidence or testimony taken in executive session" of the proposed Federal Civil Rights Commission. Here is additional evidence of the growing tendency of bureaucracy to shield its operations from the people it serves. And there is not the slightest trace of security interest as justification. — Portland Oregonian.

'Shasta' Explosion Delayed 14th Time

Las Vegas, N. M. — Adverse wind conditions have forced the Atomic Energy commission to call the 14th postponement in its "Shasta" test at the Nevada proving grounds.

Firing of the below-normal yield device from a 500-foot tower was rescheduled for 4 a.m. (PST) Tuesday. Scientists Sunday announced that the present wind pattern would have carried fallout over nearby populated areas. The postponement set a record for delays in the AEC's 1957 test schedule. The "Shasta" originally was ready to be fired July 29.

Search Continued For Elderly Climber

Colorado Springs, Colo. — Authorities said today volunteers will continue to search for Mrs. Inestine Roberts despite the slim chances that the 88-year-old mountain climber was still alive after seven days on Pikes Peak.

The Colorado Springs woman became lost last Monday while descending the famed 14,100-foot peak. She has climbed it annually for the past 15 years. Mrs. Roberts was last seen near the summit.

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RICH MAN CLIMBS TREE

GEO. N. TAYLOR

Zaccheus, tax-gatherer and wealthy, ran ahead and climbed into a mulberry tree, so as to get a glimpse of Jesus. At the tree, Jesus calls out "Zaccheus, come down, for I must abide at your house today." Out of their "hour together, Zaccheus declares, "The half of my goods I give to the poor and if I have taken from any man by false ways, I restore to him four-fold." So Zaccheus turned and showed the new life already at work.

This Message is sent by God's redeemed folks who want you to know.

