

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE
Everyone in Southern Oregon Reads The Mail Tribune
Published Daily Except Saturday by MEDFORD PRINTING CO.

"The Proper Bostonians"

ANOTHER VESTIGE of a more genteel past becomes little more than a souvenir as the New England Watch and Ward Society, Boston's stern protector of the innocent, changes its name and enlarges its activities. Henceforth, the group will be known as the New England Citizens Crime Commission.

The executive secretary, Dwight S. Strong, says the commission will assist in the formation of citizens committees against crime in any community requesting aid. He cited a report by a special legislative commission which estimated illegal gambling alone was a \$2 billion annual business in Massachusetts.

Illegal gambling always has, of course, come within the purview of the Watch and Ward Society, as have state fairs, horse and dog tracks, night clubs, beano games, stag parties, and the like. The social critic Cleveland Amory has pointed out in "The Proper Bostonians" that "the Society has never been solely interested in books, but has always maintained a militant inhospitality to sex stimuli of all sorts."

THE SOCIETY was founded by a group of Boston clergymen and educators in 1878, inspired by Anthony Comstock's Society for the Suppression of Vice (now the Society to Maintain Public Decency) in New York City. It got off to a flying start by immediately proscribing Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass."

Amory notes that "Phillips Brooks, beloved First Family preacher, was one of its guiding lights and (that) one of his assistants founded it. . . . But Godfrey Lowell Cabot was long its treasurer and is still its honorary president." Cabot, 96 and a very proper Bostonian—chemical engineer, educator, and philanthropist—is worth a story in his own right. For example, Cabot got so excited in World War I that he learned to fly at the age of 56 and had himself appointed a lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve.

Operating in a Beacon Hill office with an endowment of over a quarter of a million dollars, the Society through the years has banned the works of Sinclair Lewis, Ernest Hemingway, John Dos Passos, Theodore Dreiser, Upton Sinclair, Eugene O'Neill, H. G. Wells—and Thorne Smith and Kathleen Winsor.

The Society describes itself as "a quasi-governmental law enforcement agency . . . dedicated to the protection of the family life in New England." The German scholar, Hellmut Lehmann-Haupt, in his exhaustive study, "The Book in America," observes: "Usually . . . a notification from the New England Watch and Ward Society to an informal Boston Booksellers' Committee was a sufficient means of suppression."

MASSACHUSETTS IS the only state, thanks to the Watch and Ward, where a book may be suppressed not because it is obscene but because it may contain obscene passages or words. In 1944, Abraham Isenstadt as seller and the late Bernard de Voto as purchaser were arrested for the sale of "Strange Fruit," a novel of inter-racial love. A lower court found the book obscene and fined the bookseller, and in 1945 the state Supreme Court upheld the ruling.

This gave rise to protest that achieved a change that year in the state law. Neither the concept of obscenity nor the criteria of evaluation were changed, but power to initiate formal action was transferred from the police to the District Attorney. The book itself became indictable, not the bookseller. Under the new law, "Forever Amber" in 1947 became the first book in the twentieth century to be cleared by a Massachusetts higher court.—E.R.R.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

The dispatches tells us that the Oregon state agriculture department and the Marion county court have started a battle to the death against ragweed, which has been showing a disturbing tendency to SPREAD in the Salem area in recent years. The state area in Oregon will spray all privately owned land at no cost to the owners. Newly enacted laws give the state right of entry, either to look for ragweed or to take steps to eradicate it.

State officials say, however, that landowners will be consulted before any eradication operations are begun on their property.

WHY this declaration of all-out war? Well, the ragweed is a disreputable character. Its pollen causes hay fever. And it sheds a lot of pollen. Buffalo may have as much as 556 pounds of ragweed pollen per square mile. St. Louis may have about 519 pounds.

Ed Seabloom, Logging Figure, Dies Sunday
Reedsport, Ore. — Ed Seabloom, 63, a colorful figure in Pacific Northwest logging, died Sunday at Keiser Memorial hospital at North Bend, after suffering a stroke in a week ago.

There is a city ordinance outlawing the offending weed. Each year the chamber of commerce, the Garden club, the Boy Scouts and all the service organizations get together and comb the town in search of any ragweed that might dare to show its head. If they find one, they give it the works.

WHY this anti-ragweed phobia? The answer is simple and understandable. The town of Kane MAKES ITS LIVING (in reverse, of course) out of ragweed. It works like this:

When the hay fever season begins, hay fever sufferers from surrounding states begin to roll in—by plane, by train and by automobile. They are met by the chamber of commerce and taken in tow. Some of them are placed in the numerous hotels and motels that have been built for their accommodation. The remainder—there is reported to be always a surplus—are parked in private homes and boarding houses.

They remain until the first reports of frost from their home towns tell them it is safe to go back. Meanwhile they spend their money in KANE—whose residents find the hay fever refugees so lucrative that they can thumb their noses at adversity and live the life of Riley throughout the rest of the year.

THE politicians who headquarter in Salem have been peddling a lot of gloom and doom here of late about the state of Oregon and its future. Down here in Southern Oregon, we don't agree with them. We think our future is bright. But maybe there is method in their seeming madness. They may feel that if everything else goes to pot they can divvy the ragweed out of the area around the state capitol and live happy ever afterward on the hay fever sufferers who will come there to get away from it all.



THEY CAME OFF IN THE WATER AND DROWNED.

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.

A Plea from Ashland

To the Editor: We would like to make a suggestion hoping it will help the citizens of Medford. For a long time your paper has criticized and made scathing remarks about the Southern Pacific not running the passenger train to Portland—well, so what—no one rode on it. Now, Mr. Editor, would you publish your paper for a few subscribers at a great loss of revenue? Much has been said about the few trees torn out along Fir street where the First National bank now stands. Now you should use this energy to save your city park—Hawthorne park, a beautiful place. But all the trees and shrubs will be pulled out for several blocks along Bear creek—just where it is most lush and ideal for picnic parties. When the highway cuts through the park and the traffic with the noise and obnoxious gas fumes drifts across—who then can enjoy your beautiful park?

This affects thousands of people and especially children. Where else can a place so accessible and so much needed be found? Even New York City with its growth and commercialism, never destroyed Central Park but realized the importance, even necessity of it. So, now why don't you do something about this and generations yet unborn will rise up and call you blessed.

Lorna Anderson
929 Bush St.
Ashland, Ore.

Not for F.P. or Nothing

To the Editor: In view of some of the distorted attacks upon me as a so-called "Federal power or nothing" advocate, I believe you may be interested in the Congressional Record of August 9, when Senator Kuchel of California and I led successfully the fight in the Senate for passage of the bill which gives the approval of the Federal government to joint interstate use of the waters of the Klamath river by Oregon and California.

This action paves the way for hydroelectric projects on the Klamath river by the California-Oregon Power Company, a private utility corporation. You will note that I have emphasized this fact to the Senate in my discussion of the bill. You will also note that I have announced my firm support of the waters of the Klamath. In addition, you will observe that I backed the bill against the strictures of Senator Dworshak of Idaho.

I am calling this Senate debate of August 9 to your attention, because there have been unfair political charges voiced against me in Oregon to the effect that Senator Morse and I favor Federal power projects or none at all. This is another demonstration of the untruth of that charge. It also has been demonstrated as false by my backing of such private utility developments as those of Pacific Power & Light Company on the Lewis river in the state of Washington and at Eden Ridge in Coos county on the Oregon coast, as well as of the Portland General Electric Company additional developments on the Clackamas river near Estacada.

Please note that the Senate passed the Klamath compact authorization bill, which was sponsored jointly by Senator Knowland of California, Senator Kuchel of California, Senator Morse of Oregon and myself.

Richard L. Neuberger, United States Senator, Washington, D.C.

Responsibility, Not Fear

To the Editor: The comment of Governor Robert Holmes recently to the effect that safety education emphasis should be placed upon responsibility rather than fear is one which will certainly find plenty of agreement in the trucking industry.

For many years the industry has felt that far more can be accomplished in the way of developing safe driving attitudes by building up pride rather than by attempting to create fear of unpleasant consequences. Our "Good Joe" program, for example, is intended to accord recognition and respect to courteous drivers. The many safety awards which are given to thousands of drivers by their companies, the OTA's "Driver of the Year" project and many other phases of the trucking industry's safety program all are based on appeals to pride, respect, common sense and professional ability.

Today's truck drivers, we think everyone will agree, are professionals in every sense of the word and this stress on the professional aspect of their job has been, we believe, responsible for the splendid safe driving record achieved by the industry in Oregon.

The same sort of approach might be suggested for motorists as well—emphasis on the need for professional ability and mature conduct on the highways. Heaven knows, in today's traffic, on today's roads, with today's cars, there's no room for any more amateurs.

Robert R. Knipe, Manager, Oregon Trucking Associations, Inc., Portland, Ore.

"High-Priced Depression"

To the Editor: The following letter has been sent to Senator Richard Neuberger: Dear Dick: I wonder if the administration actually realizes the desperate plight of the lumber industry here in Oregon. For my part as a lumber broker, I am finding that I have to go increasingly into British Columbia to secure stock, and frankly, am presently mending fences up there for the coming winter, due to the fact that so many mills are closing down, not only in Southern Oregon but all up the coast to Portland.

When talking with these producers they tell me it is not just the low lumber market that is causing this, but primarily the fact that they cannot obtain money to cold deck logs, over the winter months due to the tight money policy of the administration, plus their bank connections telling them that with the new Federal Reserve discount rate boosted to 3 1/2% money simply is not available under 8 to 10%—if the banks would take on log inventory loans for average producers.

It does seem a tragedy to shut our mills down and throw the people who were employed on unemployment compensation during this coming winter; wouldn't it be much cheaper to declare a disaster industry in lumber, just as disaster areas are entitled to 3% government money? The tax savings alone over this winter would be tremendous, and I can personally assure you most of these mills would operate, even on this depressed lumber market, were they able to finance log inventories for the coming winter months—when the market cannot do anything but get a bit better rather than worse.

It seems to me that all we can look forward to in Oregon this winter is a high priced depression.

Congressional Session Nearing Close Without Election Reform

By RAYMOND LAHR, United Press Correspondent

Washington — The approaching adjournment of Congress means another year is passing without action on election laws.

Next year is an election year. Congress normally shows even less interest in tinkering with the laws that govern campaigning as the time for voting draws closer.

It is a rare Congress that fails to receive a report from one or more of its committees recommending a big rewrite of election statutes. Yet little has been done since passage of the Hatch Act almost 20 years ago.

A controversial bill came out of the Senate Elections Subcommittee last year. Senate Republican and Democratic leaders later joined in sponsoring a bill, narrower in scope, in the hope of getting action. Even this softer bill never came to a vote.

Last winter the same subcommittee brought forth a report, as big as a metropolitan telephone directory, on the 1956 political campaign. Republicans disputed its conclusions and it provided no basis for the widespread agreement essential if a bill is to be passed.

Later other recommendations came from the special Senate committee created last year to investigate improper lobbying and campaign activities. Its report was referred to the elections subcommittee which approved another bill packed with controversy last month.

Throughout the argument over updating the election laws there has been little agreement except on this one point: Present ceilings on campaign spending are unrealistic and easily avoided. The three million dollar annual limit on expenditures by national political com-

mittees is circumvented by multiplying the number of committees. The ceilings on personal expenditures of congressional candidates are ignored by the simple device of creating committees to do the spending.

Election reform advocates agree something should be done to bring these provisions up to date to recognize, among other things, the cost of television campaigning. But from there they scatter in all directions.

Some Here, Some There
Some want to apply the spending limits and reporting requirements to primary and pre-convention campaigns. The present law in effect exempts Democratic congressional candidates in the one-party South because it exempts primaries. The same applies to Republicans in a few one-party states.

The law also puts no restraints

on pre-convention campaigning like the 1952 Eisenhower contest for the 1952 GOP presidential nomination or the Stevenson-Kefauver competition before the 1956 Democratic convention.

Another election reform proposal calls for limiting the contributions which can be made by one individual who now may contribute up to \$5,000 to an unlimited number of political committees. So can each member of his family. This reform idea is liked by many Democrats who think most wealthy persons making such sizeable contributions are on the side of the GOP.

Some Republicans for their part are insistent on tightening the law to restrict political spending by labor organizations, most of which side with the Democrats. These Republicans think the unions have found too many loopholes.

Matter of Fact

By Stewart Alsop

UGLY SITUATION
It begins to look as though an old prophecy by President Eisenhower is belatedly coming true. In 1954, the President warned that the election of a Democratic Congress would result in "uncertainty, confusion, and divided responsibility."

In fact, until rather recently, the President has lived rather more happily with the Democratic 84th Congresses than he did with the Republican 83rd Congress. But that is no longer so. As the President's desperate threat to call a special session to save his foreign aid program suggests, the present relationship between Congress and the White House is indeed one of uncertainty, confusion, and divided responsibility.

There are a lot of reasons for this. But the most important reason is the present mood of the Democrats in Congress. By and large, they are disgruntled, fed up, frustrated, and enraged. Three examples will serve to suggest why this is so.

Take, as example number one, the case of Democratic Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson. Last year, Johnson almost single-handedly saved the President's foreign aid program. His own vote on the Appropriations Committee provided a majority of one for the President's program, and thereafter Johnson worked his special magic to swing nine votes, the President's way.

Johnson is exceedingly unlikely to do the same thing again. He is genuinely convinced that the civil rights bill, passed by the Senate largely as a result of his own herculean efforts, is a good and fair bill. He is equally convinced that the Administration has adopted the strategy of prolonging the civil rights battle in order to make political hay out of the issue in 1958. In the circumstances, as one of Johnson's friends put it, "Why in the devil should Lyndon stick his neck out for Ike?"

As an example number two, take the sad case of Sen. Richard Neuberger of Oregon. Neuberger is a left-wing Democrat from a normally Republican state, which makes his political position touchy to begin with. He is also an internationalist, and he has consistently supported the President on such matters as foreign aid, reciprocal trade, the U.S. Information Agency, and defense appropriations.

According to the Congressional Quarterly, Neuberger has supported the President on thirteen out of seventeen key issues on which the President has taken a stand. This is one of the highest records of Presidential support in the Senate. And what is

Neuberger's record?

Using the Congressional Quarterly statistics, Oregon's Republican State Chairman, James Short, attacks Neuberger for his "appalling" record of "disregard for the demands of the people for economy."

Neuberger has sent an unguished protest to Republican National Chairman Meade Alcorn, but the protest seems unlikely to do him much good. At any rate, Neuberger's sad story is by no means unusual, and the moral is not lost on the Democrats: Support the President on issues like foreign aid, and get your teeth kicked by the Republicans back home.

Or take, as example number three, the case of Sen. Stuart Symington of Missouri. When the House heavily cut the President's defense budget, the President went on the air to say that to fail to restore a substantial part of the cut would mean taking a "fearful gamble" with the national security. Symington led the fight in the Senate, on the Democratic side, to get the President what he wanted, and largely succeeded.

Then, when the Senate-House conference on the defense budget met, Secretary of Defense Wilson and Budget Chief Brundage blandly informed the conference that the amount Symington had fought to restore was not really necessary after all. Symington, who has been much criticized back home as a heavy spender, thus had the rug neatly pulled out from under him. As a result, he is seriously considering voting against foreign military aid, for the first time in his Senate career.

These three examples—and more could be cited—should be enough to suggest why the Democratic majorities in Congress now take a special delight in denying the President on such issues as foreign aid. The President's threat to call a special session has further disgruntled the Democrats. "If His Majesty wants to play it rough," one Democrat grimly remarked, "He'll find that His Majesty's loyal opposition can play pretty rough too."

Altogether, an ugly situation is developing. When the White House and the Congress are controlled by different parties there is always the danger of something worse than "uncertainty and confusion"—a kind of angry paralysis of the processes of government. That danger is now real, and it is to be hoped that the President recognizes it, and is prepared to deal with it.

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INDUSTRY OBSERVES

Rome, Italy.—Seventy officials of small industries will travel to the United States next week to learn how small industries operate in a large market.

Senators Denounce Increase in Tariffs

Washington — Two Senate Democrats denounced a proposed increase in lead and zinc tariffs today as a potential economic blow to the country and a threat to U.S. foreign trade.

The two were Sens. Paul H. Douglas (D-Ill.) and Albert Gore (D-Tenn.), the only dissenters when the Senate Finance committee voted Friday to raise the import tax on the two metals.

The committee approved a provision to impose a three-cent import duty on lead as long as the domestic price stays below 17 cents, and on zinc while the price is below 14 1/2 cents. The present tariffs are 1 1/16 cent on lead and 7/10 of a cent on zinc.

In a minority report Douglas and Gore called the proposed action "a serious blow to our economy and an attempt to undermine our reciprocal trade program which will worsen the trade relations of the U.S. and the Free World."

North Carolina Girl Wants Education

New York — A pretty 16-year-old North Carolina girl, who has become a celebrity almost overnight, said Sunday night she wants to finish her education and to become a secretary to help support her poverty-stricken family.

Jim Dorothy Brown, who went from a backwoods shack to a fashionable New York hotel for a week end of luxury living, said on the Ed Sullivan TV show "My family has always been poor, and I always wanted to be somebody."

An industrialist already has offered to pay for a high school and college education for Dorothy May, as she prefers to be called. The \$1,000 she received for the TV appearance will go into a trust fund at a Mooresville, N.C., bank.

pressed lumber market, were they able to finance log inventories for the coming winter months—when the market cannot do anything but get a bit better rather than worse. It seems to me that all we can look forward to in Oregon this winter is a high priced depression.

Dana McBarron, Rogue River, Ore.

Keep Still—Blind Man

When told that Jesus was to pass that way, the blind beggar began to yell—"Jesus, Son of David, take pity on me." The crowd tried to stop him but he kept yelling until Jesus arrived. The Lord asked him a question, then said—"Receive your sight."—Luke 18:35-43. BIBLE. From then on he could see trees, sunshine, faces, even as you and me.

This Message by God's people who want you to know.



Geo. N. Taylor

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