

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE
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How Silly Can We Get?

The role of a Democratic office-holder in this normally Republican state is a rough one. As far as the "one-party" (GOP) press is concerned he is damned if he does and damned if he doesn't.

THIS blind and stupid partisanship has been particularly noticeable as far as Governor Holmes and his calling of a special session is concerned.

THE Oregon Journal for example—once 100 per cent Democratic, now even more Republican than the Oregonian—has been complaining for months about the high and inequitable tax system in this state.

That refrain, as stated, has been the Journal's No. 1 theme song ever since the Democrats captured the state at the last election.

WHEN in June State Treasurer Unander announced there would be a \$37,000,000 surplus and suggested a tax refund, which of course would also have required a special session—there were no cries of anguish from the Journal or any other member of the 100 per cent Republican press, coming to this desk at last.

But when a few months later Governor Holmes suggested the SAME thing, the Portland evening paper proceeded to term it a "fiasco" reminiscent of "World War days," a completely wrong approach to the state's tax problem, a purely political move which could develop into an expensive "free-for-all" that "could go on all winter without producing anything fundamental in the way of a sound tax system for Oregon."

WOULD the special session proposed by State Treasurer Unander, a Republican, not for any radical reform of the tax system, but for a refund to the overburdened taxpayers—have done any better?

HOW silly can we get? One doesn't have to be a lineal descendant of Sherlock Holmes to realize that this blast against Governor Holmes, who happens to wear a Democratic label, and either praise or silence for the Republican State Treasurer when he proposed similar action, adds up to nothing but the most childish and ridiculous form of bigoted and short-sighted partisanship.—R.W.R.

"Q.E.D."

As a postscript to the above, we can't refrain from a brief—and we hope inoffensive—employment of a somewhat offensive term "we told you so!"

When former Secretary of the Interior McKay was named chairman of the International Joint Water Commission concerned with water problems along the U.S.-Canadian border, the criticism that as Interior Secretary, Mr. McKay did everything he could to defeat federal power development and his selection therefore was "unwise," was met on the part of most of the Oregon Republican press by the assertion that this was all political "hocus-pocus" for as Chairman, Mr. McKay would have nothing to do with the public versus private power issue, or practically nothing.

Now only a few months after this "alibi" was presented, we note, via Mr. A. Robert Smith's column in the Oregonian, that Chairman McKay has been put on the spot by Idaho and Montana delegations in Washington, D.C., regarding a proper solution of the international Libby Dam project.

Congressman Lee Metcalf, of Montana, for example is quoted as follows:

"It was McKay as Secretary of the Interior who announced in 1954 that Libby should be built. We suspected that was a diversionary tactic by the administration in the Hells Canyon fight. Now we will see if they mean business."

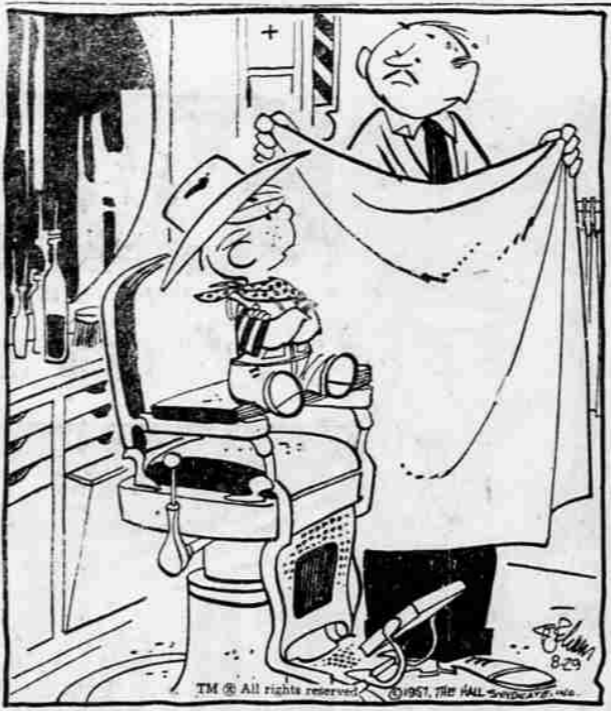
Exactly! Chairman McKay's efforts in advancing this public power project will be watched with interest. But the point of this brief comment of course is not what Mr. McKay will do but the fact that his GOP supporters stoutly maintained when he was appointed that in this particular field, there would be nothing he COULD do.—R.W.R.

Mrs. Neuberger Denies Political Ambitions

Mrs. Maurine Neuberger, wife of Oregon's junior Sen. Richard L. Neuberger, this week denied any personal political ambitions. In a letter to the editor of the Portland Oregonian, Mrs. Neuberger commented on rumors that she was planning to run against Congressman Edith Green (D-3rd Ore.). Her letter follows:

To the Editor: Your editorial of August 16 suggested that I might oppose Congresswoman Edith Green for nomination in 1958. This report has appeared before but there is not a word of truth in it. One member of my family in the turmoil of political life is enough for me—and occasionally, I think, too much.

The strains and vanity of politics are a major reason I feel this way. I regret deeply that Senator Morse felt he had been insulted because Senator Paul Douglas praised my husband's

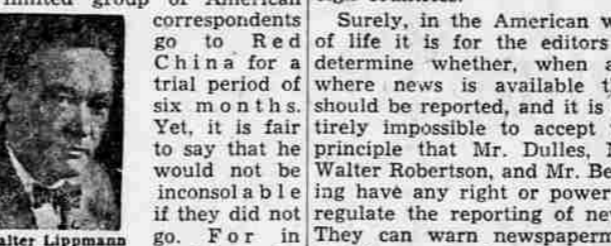


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Today and Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

MR. DULLES AND THE PRESS It may be that Mr. Dulles is, as he says, not willing to let a limited group of American correspondents go to Red China for a trial period of six months.



offer he attached to it the one condition most likely to provoke Red China into refusing to admit the American correspondents.

He will allow 24 American correspondents representing leading newspapers, news magazines, and broadcasting companies to go to Red China. But no Chinese newspapermen are to come to the United States.

THE essential difference between a free press and a totalitarian press lies exactly here: that in a free country the press is not an instrument of the government's policy. It is an independent instrument to enable the people to understand and to judge policy, to help them make or to help them unmake policy.

ASIA is different. Asia has never known liberty. So the Asians are unable to understand our efforts to buy liberty for them and give it to them as a Christmas present. Misunderstanding us, they are SUSPICIOUS of us.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

I suppose you've been reading about the "situation" in Syria. The blunt FACT of the situation is that Syria has been taken over by the Communists and is now a Russian outpost in the strategic Middle East.

HOW did they get the guns? That is the significant part of the story. IN SYRIA, we and the Russians were bidding for INFLUENCE.

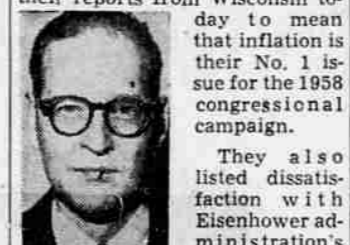
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Inflation Seen No. 1 Issue in Democratic Wisconsin Victory

By RAYMOND LAHR United Press Correspondent Washington — Democratic Party managers interpreted their reports from Wisconsin today to mean that inflation is their No. 1 issue for the 1958 congressional campaign.



They also listed dissatisfaction with Eisenhower administration's farm, foreign and budget policies as factors in the upset victory of the Democratic nominee in Wisconsin's Special Senate election Tuesday.

Republicans were inclined to blame their own family strife in Wisconsin as the chief reason for their defeat but many of them admitted that other issues influenced the outcome against their candidate.

Tight Money Policy In the Wisconsin vote, Democrat William Proxmire defeated former GOP Gov. Walter J. Kohler, an Eisenhower Republican. Compared with the 1956 results in Wisconsin, a normally Republican state, Proxmire registered gains in the Democratic vote across the board in both industrial and farm areas.

Democrats in Congress have been yammering all year on the issue of inflation and the rising cost of living. They have linked this to the administration's tight money policy, which the administration considers a weapon against inflation while some Democrats argue that it in fact contributes to inflation.

Another Trouble Spot The farm issue has spelled trouble for Republicans since early in the Eisenhower administration. Proxmire's sweep of most of the rural counties in Wisconsin indicates that it is still a GOP headache.

Sen. Alexander Wiley (R-Wis.) they got the job in Egypt — where Nasser needed guns.

IF WE will heed it, there is a useful lesson for us in this Syrian mess. The lesson is this: We can't BUY FRIENDS in that part of the world because we can't play the kind of crooked shell game that is needed to win out there.

WE DID very well with our original Marshall plan — which was designed to rebuild war-ravaged Western Europe to the point where it would be able to resist the spread of Russian communism.

IT WORKED. It worked because in Western Europe we were dealing with our kind of people. The Western Europeans love liberty. They APPRECIATE liberty. They appreciate it because over the centuries they have shed rivers of blood to gain it.

Western Europeans, knowing and valuing liberty, are grateful to us for what we have done to help them KEEP it.

ASIA is different. Asia has never known liberty. So the Asians are unable to understand our efforts to buy liberty for them and give it to them as a Christmas present. Misunderstanding us, they are SUSPICIOUS of us.

I'm afraid there isn't much future for us in trying to BUY FRIENDS in Asian countries.

Oregon Exports Show 150 Per Cent Increase Portland — Oregon exports for the first half of this year showed a gain of 150 per cent over the first half of 1956, the U.S. Department of Commerce reported today.

Oregon exported goods valued at \$198,324,911.

said one of the conclusions to be drawn from the Wisconsin result was that farmers in the state were "definitely dissatisfied with the overall federal agricultural program, particularly as the dairy program has worked out."

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop THE GERMAN MIRACLE

Bonn, Germany — The currency crisis in France and Britain, with its resulting pressure on Germans to revalue their mark upwards, is an amazing sign of the times.

With Germany quite likely to supersede Britain as the third power in the world and the second power in the West, this last question has profound importance. As yet, curiously enough, it is not a question that any but a tiny minority of Germans have asked themselves.

But how will the new Germany's weight and power be made to count? The final answer, in this reporter's opinion, is the direct responsibility of the United States. The new Germany is Europe-minded, and even minded to form an increasingly intimate partnership with her traditional enemy, France.

HEALTHY, independent Germany then seemed possible and even highly likely. But nothing seemed more absolutely beyond the bounds of possibility than Germany's re-emergence as the real heavy-weight in the world balance of power.

The figures tell the story in their blunt, bleak way. Starting with nothing, the Germany Treasury now has total reserves above five billion dollars, of which more than 3 1/2 billion are in hard currency. Last year Germany enjoyed a favorable trade balance of more than one billion dollars. This year's outlook is as good or better.

Most significant of all, German steel output has multiplied almost ten times since the post-war low. Last year it was more than 23 million tons, and therefore well above the British output. In total production of all sorts, Germany still lags behind Britain, although the gap is closing fast.

THE first questions one naturally asks is simply: "How have the Germans done it?" The answer seems to lie in a combination of three factors.

There is the government of Konrad Adenauer, with its toughly conservative economic policies. There is the German trades union leadership, haunted by the ugly memory of past inflations, and aware that living standards must only rise as output rises.

Between these three groups, plus the habitually industrious German people, the credit must be shared. But there is still

another, deeper question that one must also ask about Germany's regained weight in the world balance. It is the question: "How will the Germans use this weight, by throwing it about for their own temporary aggrandizement, or for more permanent, constructive purposes?"

But how will the new Germany's weight and power be made to count? The final answer, in this reporter's opinion, is the direct responsibility of the United States.

But if the United States flaccidly permits the Western Alliance to become a mere empty facade (and this is why the responsibility is almost wholly American) then the new Germany will join the general game of "Save yourself and the devil take the hindmost." And after that, almost anything can happen.

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