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Ezra Benson on the Spot

When Congress reconvenes on Jan. 7, Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson faces a fight over milk products that's going to involve politics more than human kindness.

Potter's reaction takes on importance from the very fact that he sounded out milk-producing constituents before speaking.

Benson on Dec. 18 cut federal price supports on dairy products as deeply as the law allows.

When Benson's announcement was made, price supports stood at \$3.25 a hundredweight for milk used in manufacturing.

BENSON in announcing the new reduction in dairy price supports predicted a consequent saving to consumers.

Actually, the history is iffy. Take 1954, when Benson announced early in the year that support prices would be dropped from 90 per cent of parity to the legal minimum of 75 per cent.

The cut to farmers was only 8 1/4c a pound, but Benson said on March 29, two days before the reduction took effect, that the retail price would come down to the "mid-60s."

Will Benson's program prove popular enough with consumers to offset the dairymen's protests? It's a gamble, and on the figures, a shaky one.

Fluoridation Reaffirmed

On December 5 the policy-making house of delegates of the American Medical Association reaffirmed its approval of the controlled fluoridation of municipal water supplies to cut down tooth decay in children.

"No evidence has been found . . . that continuous ingestion of water containing the equivalent of approximately one part per million of fluoride for long periods by large segments of the population is harmful to the general health."

The Journal of the American Dental Association has declared this report means there now is "no reason why any community interested in the health and well-being of its children should withhold from them the benefits of properly fluoridated drinking water."

THIS is a logical conclusion, but unfortunately the American public can be frustratingly illogical. Portland people, for instance, surely have faith individually in the judgment of their own doctors and dentists.

Fluoridation has stood the test of time in U. S. communities whose residents had the wit to adopt it, just as the doctors and dentists said it would.

WHAT applies to Portland applies equally to Medford.—R.W.R.

British Airplanes May Be Purchased

London — The U. S. Navy has "approached" British authorities to investigate the possibilities of using Britain's giant 10-engine flying boat for atom-powered planes.



LOOK AT THE SWELL FOREST! EVERYBODY LET ME HAVE THEIR OLD CHRISTMAS TREES!

Sputnik, Recession, Election: Bywords For Congress in '58

Washington—(CQ)—Three words will dominate the second session of the 85th Congress which gets underway Tuesday.

The watchword for 1957—economy—went out the window Oct. 4 when the Soviets lobbed an artificial satellite into orbit and the United States launched an agonizing reappraisal of national security.

Farm policy — There is broad agreement that the acreage reserve part of the soil bank program should be dropped and that the surplus disposal program should be extended.

Labor — The Senate's probe of the Teamsters and other racket-ridden unions has put steam behind the effort to tighten up Federal labor laws.

Meanwhile, there's an election to be won next Nov. 4. All 435 seats in the House and 32 in the Senate are at stake.

Small business — Congress is expected to extend the life of the Small Business Administration, but prospects are all for a tax cut for small corporations.

Veterans — The Administration wants to begin easing off on compensation payments for non-service connected disability.

Natural gas — With memories dimmed of the sensational bribery scandal of 1956, the drive to free natural gas rates from Federal control will be resumed with the blessing of the President and the two Texas Democrats who run Congress.

Civil rights — The leading political issue of 1957, civil rights, may take a breather in 1958.

Foreign aid — The \$4 billion Mutual Security Program of military and economic aid to other countries remains the most likely victim of Congressional pruning knives.

Trade policy — Protectionist forces, encouraged by rising unemployment, will wage an all-out battle to write crippling amendments into the President's tariff-cutting program.

Civil defense — The Gaither Report's call for a multi-billion dollar shelter program will continue to provoke cries of alarm.

Postal rates — The House already has approved a \$500-million-a-year increase in postal rates, including a boost from 3 cents to 4 cents for first-class mail.

Federal pay — Increases totaling more than \$1 billion will be asked for military personnel, 500,000 post office workers and one million Federal civilian employees.

A. Robert Smith Makes Predictions of What New Year Will Bring in Headlines

By A. ROBERT SMITH, Mail Tribune Correspondent

(Editor's note: To aid readers in anticipating what events will doubtless make headlines in 1958, the Mail Tribune publishes the crystal ball gazing predictions of its Washington correspondent, who spent the holidays peering through the keyhole into the next 12 months.)

JANUARY — Senators Wayne Morse and Richard L. Neuberger begin the new session of Congress by holding a joint press conference to announce renewed unity, fidelity to the same cause, and mutual admiration.

Education — The Administration has dropped its school building program—killed by the House in 1957—in favor of a four-year, \$1 billion package featuring Federal scholarships and matching grants to states to strengthen teaching standards and facilities.

February — Congressman Walter Norblad turns up missing from his office. Aides hint he is on secret military mission.

March — Neuberger says "I don't need a job, but I'm going to clean out those left-wingers or bust!"

April — Gov. Holmes goes to Washington to attend ceremony at which President signs proclamation for Oregon Centennial.

May — President Eisenhower limps into locker room of Burning Tree country club, but stock market recovers quickly when Dr. Snyder reports the condition is temporary.

June — Congress passes the Alaska statehood bill and 99 per cent of Oregon's unemployed go north to the new frontier.

July — As Congress is held up from adjournment by quarrel over foreign aid bill, John Foster Dulles flies to Lima, Peru, for talks with ex-Congressman Sam Coon at his ICA post there.

August — Neuberger in Holiday magazine article, invites like to spend vacation at Seaside. Jim Haggerty goes to Seaside and finds Pacific ocean warmer, but crosswinds too strong for Ike's slice.

September — Dave Beck goes on trial for income tax evasion. Los Angeles Dodgers hint they may move to Seattle.

October — Election campaign rolls into high gear, despite general disinterest. Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Benson leaves for Oregon to tell Oregonians what a big help Unander has been.

November — Wayne Morse flies to Oregon for whirlwind tour in support of Democratic ticket in last days of campaign.

December — Attorney General Tom C. Clark announces record number of convictions by the state against motorists exceeding speed limit.

once more that he may not run for re-election because he would rather be a writer than a senator.

He would rather be a writer than a senator. Saturday Evening Post updates Neuberger's famous article, newly entitled, "They Never Go Back to Roseburg."

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POTLUCK (By M-T Staff and Contribution)



About 11 o'clock each Saturday morning, "Mr. Saturday" makes his weekly visit to the news room.

Last week, he did something almost unheard of in the world of pipe smokers: he forgot his. Left it on a desk in the office, he did.

Knowing he would return for it, staff members decided to do something special. Our photographer used his talented pencil on an old box; our sports editor furnished the coat; a reporter her scarf; and San Francisco the paper.

Needless to say, a happy "Mr. Saturday" left with his pipe and caricature as a souvenir.

One of our feminine staff members, accustomed to wearing heels arrived at work one day last week in something to which she wasn't accustomed: loafers.

She even brought a pair of slippers one day, and caused a minor sensation in other departments. They probably wondered just how relaxed can one work?

A couple residing on Winchester st. was a bit bewildered on their first encounter with one of its Christmas gifts, but the two quickly agreed that the present was one of the best they've ever received.

Recently, the two entered into a transaction for construction of a new home. The deal involved trade of the two houses they owned—the one they lived in and one across the street.

A local family was mystified recently when a pet's feed bowls kept disappearing. Sometimes they would be found a block from the feeding spot, and sometimes not at all.

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

Jan. 5, 1948 (Tuesday) Rain totaling 3.34 inches of precipitation since Jan. 1 results in minor flood conditions in sections of southern Oregon.

From Arthur Perry's Ye Smudge Pot column: "City planning commission plans to change names of 40 local streets. Unsettled. High 41, low 37, according to an item in Flight 'o Time for Jan. 6, 1938."

20 YEARS AGO

Jan. 5, 1928 (Wednesday) The WPA could not make allotment of \$12,000 to surface an additional width of the runway at Medford airport according to word received here.

Establishment of a museum in Medford will be aim of Southern Oregon Gem and Mineral society this year.

40 YEARS AGO

Jan. 5, 1918 (Saturday) The Medford Choral Society will present the third annual concert at the Page theater Tuesday.

From Local and personal column: "In the near future Postmaster Mims will receive for distribution to post office patrons a large consignment of government garden and flower seeds."

What's Your I.Q.?

Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good.

1. What word means a short space of time, a small quantity, and the mouthpiece of a bride?

2. Bible: Which son of Noah was the direct ancestor of Benjamin?

3. In what year did the United States declare war on Mexico?

4. Do insects have skeletons?

5. In which State was the Civil War prison of Andersonville?

6. Who is the author of "The King's General"?

7. Over the portals of what place did this inscription appear: "All hope abandon, ye who enter here?"

8. In U. S. the Fourth of July holiday commemorates what event?

9. Is cream heavier than milk?

10. The locked room which Bluebeard forbade Fatima to open, contained what?

Answers: 1. Bit. 2. Shem. 3. 1846. 4. Yes (on the outside of the body instead of the inside). 5. Georgia. 6. Daphne du Maurier. 7. Dante's "Inferno." 8. Adoption of the Declaration of Independence. 9. No. 10. The corpses of six former wives.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

What happened in Venezuela? I wouldn't know. But I suspect it was a plot to seize power.

History tells us dictators tempt ambitious persons to do away with the dictator and take over his job and his perquisites.

KEEP this in mind: Khrushchev is a dictator. It is historically probable that sooner or later some ambitious communist will try to take his job away from him.

SPEAKING of commies, there's Tito. A high communist source in Belgrade (Yugoslavia's capital) says there is NO chance he will change his "neutralist" policies during the coming year.

The "source" says Tito intends to remain politically independent from both Moscow and the West.

BUT let's get closer home. Coach Len Casanova says he is prouder of his 1957 Oregon Rose Bowl football team than of any team he has ever coached.

He adds: "Everybody said we'd be humiliated. But we went out there and put up one whale of a battle. It was a real example of guts."

HE HAS reason to be proud. He turned out a bunch of do-or-die fighters who gave everything they had, at every minute of the game, against long odds.

If the state of Oregon will go out and tackle its problems in the spirit displayed by those youngsters at Pasadena, there will be little cause to complain of Oregon's economic progress in the future.

OREGON political note: Secretary of State Mark Hatfield left the door open on the possibility that he may yet file for the Republican nomination for governor, even though State Treasurer Sig Unander has already announced his intention to seek the nomination.

Hatfield has so far declined to say flatly that he would oppose Unander for the nomination. While remarking that he could not conceive of circumstances that would cause him to enter the race, he admits that he is open to reevaluation of the situation.

Director Needed For Civil Rights

Washington — The controversial federal Civil Rights commission hoped Saturday to get "within a week" a top-notch director to guide its 20-month inquiry into voting rights violations.

President Eisenhower will pick the man for the \$22,500 job from a list of several candidates submitted by the new commission.

Commission Chairman John A. Hannah said any one of the candidates approved unanimously by the group would be acceptable. He declined to name the prospects.

CONFERENCE SET

Corvallis — The seventh annual Oregon rural health conference, which will be devoted primarily to planning regional meetings for study of local health needs, will be held here Jan. 9-10.