

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

ONE CONTEMPORARY American author genuinely appreciated in Italy is John Steinbeck. A baker in Rome actually reproduced a half-dozen covers of Steinbeck novels in pastry form. John Fuller called the window display to the attention of Steinbeck, who dutifully bought "The Wayward Bus," and had it for dessert that evening.



"This is the first time," notes Fuller, "that I ever saw an author eat his own words."

A couple of Texans were driving through California's famed redwood forest. In the heart of the grove, with giant trees towering on all sides, they stopped for a snack. One Texan eyed the redwoods appraisingly, then drew to the dietician proprietor: "Say, Bud, how much further we gotta ride to get out of this underbrush?"

"I hate that chap," asserted the cute little secretary, as she rubbed her eyes on her lips.

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Equalizing Timber Taxes Tackled by State Commission

Salem —(UPI)—The State Tax Commission, acting as a State Board of Equalization, started hearings Monday on problems of equalizing timber taxes among the counties.

Testimony was taken from Benton County Assessor Richard Wegener and County Equalization Board Member E. E. Larkin. Other statements were read into the record.

Several Oregon counties have changed timber valuations set by the valuation division of the State Tax Commission and the hearings are designed to find out why the changes were made and whether they fulfill the legal requirement of uniformity.

Wegener told the Commission he based his values on recommendations of the Tax Commission although he felt they were a little high in today's declining lumber market.

The County Board of Equalization then cut the values about 30 per cent and upped a suggested 14-year depletion schedule for old growth timber to 20 years.

Larkin said he thought valuations provided by the Tax Commission were too

high and might jeopardize the sustained yield program. He also thought the 14-year depletion schedule for old growth timber to 20 years.

Larkin said he thought valuations provided by the Tax Commission were too high and might jeopardize the sustained yield program. He also thought the 14-year depletion schedule was too short, especially for big operators who plan for longer periods of time.

Larkin convinced timber owners had convinced him that valuation of their product should be lower due to the slump in the timber market.

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Representatives of Lane county, whose board cut valuation division recommendations by about 68 per cent, will be heard Thursday.

Tillamook county, which recently accepted Tax Commission figures, also may send representatives to testify later.

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. The letters printed in this column do not necessarily represent the views of the paper; in fact the contrary is often the case.

Could Spark War

To the Editor: The problems of a beautiful little country half around the world affects the lives of Oregonians. In Lebanon, a country slightly larger than Jackson county with 1,400,000 population, an unrest has been brewing for 40 days, which, if unarrested, could spark a war in the Middle East and from there engulf the world.

Whether the civil war was inspired by the Arab, the Communist or the Western world, or by internal conflicts, there is the threat that the United States might be called upon to fulfill the intentions of the Eisenhower Doctrine and intervene with military force. Instead, the good offices of the United Nations averted such action.

The Lebanon government was threatened by armed opposition, when its 70 year old president, Chamoun, prepared to change the constitution in order to permit himself another six year term. This move united all opposition groups — the anti-Western, the moderates, friendly to both East and West, and the partisans, whose deepest loyalties were to the Arab world and to Nasser's newly established United Arab Republic. This latter group was accused of getting arms and help from across the Lebanese - Syrian border.

Charles Malik, the Lebanese United Nations representative, requested help to protect the borders. The United Nations Security Council authorized observers Uris and Dag Hammarskjold. United Nations secretary general, went to Lebanon. He talked with President Chamoun and dispersed the 100 observers (from nine countries) along the Lebanese border sending them out in pairs of white United Nations jeeps to "see and hear."

How such small unarmed patrols were expected to stop infiltration was explained by Ecuador's ex-President Lasso, now United Nations supervisory commissioner.

"Our way is the moral way," he said, "we hope to stop infiltration by bringing it to international attention."

Peacemaker Hammarskjold conferred with Nasser in Cairo. He brought back an "optimistic" report to the United Nations.

If Nasser's United Arab Republic is responsible for infiltration past events give us reason to believe he will yield to United Nations patrols, and be disciplined by United Nations directed international opinion. Nasser did accept the United Nations Peace Force, the first peace army ever to be used, which did succeed in pacifying the Suez conflict. He cooperates with the United Nations Patrol preventing open conflict on the Egyptian border at Gaza.

For the time being, the United States accepts the United Nations action although Secretary Dulles told a press conference that there are other possible moves for the United States in the Lebanese crisis. I am certain those possibilities do not include moving in the 3,000 Marines of the Sixth Fleet, or sending in G.I.s, all of which seems rather extravagant use of force by a country of tremendous power when the world has come to respect the tact, courage, forbearance and foresight of United Nations peace action.

Marie M. Bosworth Medford Chapter, Oregon United Nations Assn.

Sputnik Rocket Due In Portland Skies

Portland — (UPI) — The Oregon Moonwatch team said today that the rocket of Sputnik III will pass over Portland four evenings in a row this week, and should be visible each time.

Robert Boardwell, head of the team, said scheduled passages of the Russian Sputnik rocket were: Wednesday, 9:13 p.m., low in the southeast sky; Thursday, 9:20 p.m., about 20 degrees above the horizon in the southeast sky; Friday, 9:27 p.m., 70-80 degrees above the horizon in the southeast sky, and Saturday, 9:32 p.m., 70-80 degrees high in the northwest sky.

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