

# Communications

**Start at Home**  
To the Editor: On several occasions recently we have read in your paper letters from Mr. Stathos criticizing the fact that Representative Charles O. Porter is wasting the taxpayers' money sending out literature for campaign purposes at their expense. I do not know if there is merit to his claim or not, but even if true, it is only a drop in the bucket compared to the loss to the taxpayers of Oregon in the give away of the Tidlands oil engineered by the Cordon-McKay combine, on the Al Serena case engineered by the McKay-Ellsworth combine. Where was Mr. Stathos when these took place? Or has he such a short memory?

If Mr. Stathos is really worried about the waste of the taxpayers' money, why not start closer at home? We have a beautiful county farm home in Jackson county provided by the voters for county patients, yet since it was first opened it has been operated by the county commissioners only partly for county pa-

tients and the other part used for those with sufficient pull to get in, to the exclusion of county patients for which it was built.

The rates charged for these private patients is so much lower than rates paid by the county welfare commission in many cases that it actually results in the taxpayers actually subsidizing these private patients.

Mr. Stathos, if you are really concerned about the waste of the taxpayers' money, here is an excellent opportunity for you to go to work. How about it? It might be that Mr. Wendt who is up for reelection could give you some help.

A. J. Curry  
906 West Main St.  
Medford

**Neubergers on Pay**  
To the Editor: As former members of the Oregon legislature, we would like to urge all of your readers to vote "Yes" on Ballot Measure No. 3, to permit a modest and long-overdue increase in the salaries of Oregon's legislators.

This is a completely non-partisan measure. No vote on

an issue on the ballot can make a more essential contribution to good government in our state than No. 3, Yes.

Oregon legislative pay is now \$600 a year. When considered in connection with expenses of attaining a legislative session, and the loss of other income during that period, this sum is of course only a token payment. Actually, it means that we expect honest members of the state senate and assembly to represent us at a substantial financial sacrifice out of their own pockets. Is this either democratic or consistent with good government?

The pittance Oregon now pays those we elect to govern is among the lowest in the nation. It is less than that paid in any of our neighboring states.

Undoubtedly, opponents of this measure will include some of the same people who, inconsistently, are cynical about "politicians" and downgrade them for being accessible to lobbyists and special interests.

The argument is thoughtlessly made that legislators "know the salary when they run" and thus should be satisfied with it. Yet what of the potential candidates who cannot afford the financial sacrifice at all? There was a time, in the history of parliamentary government, when legislators were not paid at all — and that means, at least not by the public. Certainly, candidates could nevertheless be found, as could private interests only too glad to support legislators while in office and to make legislative service worth their while. But who today would suggest returning to such a system?

With the widespread concern in these times about lobbying and conflicts of interests, do we not want to bolster the independence of legislators at least to the point where they can break even on the actual costs of their public service?

It would cost about \$54,000 more a year to pay a decent salary to our legislature, who control a biennial state budget approaching \$300 million. Could there be a sounder investment in competent handling of our taxes and governmental affairs of that magnitude?

That is why we urge our fellow voters, of both parties, to vote "Yes" on Ballot Measure 3 on election day.

Richard L. Neuberg, U.S.S.  
Maurine B. Neuberg, 326 New U.S. Courthouse Portland, Ore.

# Washington Report

By William S. White

## THE HELPFUL WIVES

Washington — Profoundly subversive and un-American though it is, a terrible thought sometimes crosses the minds of politicians. This is that woman's suffrage has perhaps not been in every possible circumstance the soundest possible reform of this century.

No politician would dare utter this heresy without first pulling down the blinds and testing the room for wiretaps. Yet, this correspondent is able

to report, from deep "inside," that such a dangerous notion currently is being secretly nourished by many friends of Sen. William F. Knowland.

Not all these friends want Knowland to win his desperate battle in California — not all of them are fellow Republicans. Some are only fellow husbands; and no doubt able to pass the severest Democratic loyalty test. Nevertheless, these, too, now have a special sympathy for this large, grave, highly decent and highly correct man whose life, Helen, calls him "Billy," in a diminutive as wildly inappropriate as it is engagingly fond.

FOR Knowland, who had troubles enough anyhow, for the second time has cause to paraphrase the epigram that a man can take care of his enemies if only the Lord will take care of his friends. If the enthusiastic assistance of friends sometimes goes dangerously far, the help of a fond wife may well go mortally far. A lady politician defending her own place and party will hit hard enough. In politics, as in other things, women believe in total war.

But a lady whose husband is a politician has a spirit of combat so disconcertingly clear-eyed as to make the most bellicose male partisan look like a conscientious objector. It is in this spirit that Mrs. Knowland has written a brisk public commentary upon Mr. Knowland's running mate, Gov. Goodwin Knight. Knight seeks to replace Knowland as senator; Knowland seeks to replace Knight as governor.

Mrs. Knowland's remarks upon Governor Knight's "macaroni spine" have followed her earlier endorsement of an extremely tough right-wing pamphlet, by Joseph Kamp. Mr. Kamp's good wishes for Mr. Knowland were about as useful to him as a hearty endorsement from Gov. Orval Faubus of Arkansas would be to Gov. Averell Harriman of New York.

**Political Football?**  
To the Editor: After listening to Mr. Bristol on TV Tuesday afternoon I wondered how he can accuse Charlie Porter of using the Rogue River Valley flood control for a personal motive, and if he expects the voters to swallow his statement that Porter of his own volition is promoting the development of that project.

The devastation caused by the Rogue River flood a few years ago will not soon be forgotten, especially by the people of the Shady Cove and Trail areas where property damage was so extensive. Those people as well as hundreds of others in Jackson and Josephine counties were so much concerned that they quickly held public meetings for the purpose of taking action which soon resulted in the revival of the Rogue River Valley Flood Control program with the possibilities of reviewing the feasibility of its various aspects which would prevent re-occurrence of such damage as they had recently experienced.

Now Mr. Bristol certainly cannot imply that none of these many people did not approach Congressman Porter with a request to act in their behalf. If so, I just cannot believe it.

The Rogue River Valley Flood Control was just another dead horse, exactly what I believe Mr. Bristol wanted it to be, although now he is expounding on its virtues, especially so when he tries to depict the qualification of Porter's opponent, who as he states, has such a vast knowledge of flood control in this area.

Now, if Mr. Bristol and Mr. Geddes, and even former Congressman Ellsworth, were so familiar with flood controls, why have they not done something about it instead of allowing such programs as the Rogue River Valley Flood Control to stagnate, or come up with some other solution that would eliminate the possibilities of damage caused by flood conditions on the Rogue river.

To me it is just another case of GOP do nothing. They talk and make promises, but do nothing. And as far as making a political issue out of this important matter such as Mr. Bristol implies Charlie Porter is doing, just what is Mr. Bristol doing when he is trying to tell us how good a job Mr. Geddes will do handling flood control problems if he is elected? You had a political football Mr. Bristol for a while when you appeared on TV, but I believe now that you have lost it.

D. A. Peterson,  
376 Crowson rd., Ashland.

Similarly, her present denunciation of Knight, who is in unhappy tandem with Knowland on what is, after all, a single ticket, could bring joy only to the Democrats. Her estimate of Governor Knight is no different from that of many, many regular Republicans. But the point is that a woman in politics tends to adopt a candor that is a bit excessive.

The late Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio was no party-waiver in a campaign; but his devoted wife, Martha, sometimes made him appear almost a pacifist. It is sad but true that in politics, and especially in an election year, it is possible to be altogether too faithful to intellectual honesty.

Moreover, not many men in the United States of America can control their wives in a political campaign any more than a wife can be controlled at a cocktail party for a detested boss whose favor her husband is nevertheless not anxious to lose once and for all.

**MRS. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT** raised her clear, untrodden voice many times to the pain of her distinguished husband. But nobody ever heard of any husbandly effort to silence her. Indeed, a powerful Texan once wrote Old

## VOTE



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Ed. ad. Frank Christian for Co. Commissioner, Jackson Co. Dem. Central Com., Jim Redden, Chmn., 2246 Aloha Ave.

chairman of almost any political community. These excellent ladies are sometimes called "chairladies," though the sheltered types of male who have never been whistle-stopping will hardly credit this. To the chairladies, no Harry S. Truman, no Richard M. Nixon, would for a moment deny the palm of the ultimate in fighting determination.

Blandford made the suggestion after City Engineer Cecil L. Simmons said it takes a

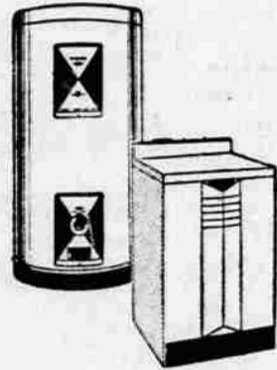
**Special Sign for 'Wise Guys' Urged**  
Grand Rapids, Mich. — (UP) — special crew most of Monday to correct street signs that have been turned around to confuse the public.

Blandford said the ideal spot for a special sign would be at the intersection of Crescent and Ottawa — right in front of police headquarters.

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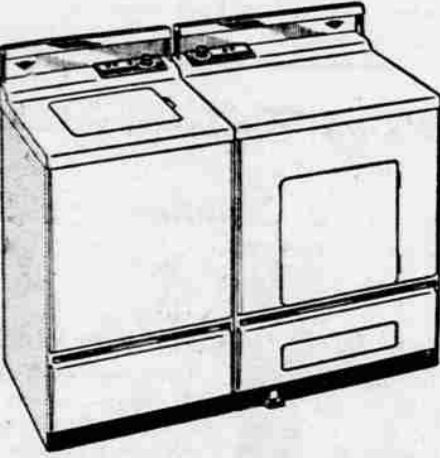


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Shortens Effects of Colds in Any Stage  
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