

Who Starts Fires?

It was ironic that the first meeting of the Jackson County Keep Oregon Green committee held in many months came the week after the big fire which for a time threatened the city of Ashland.

The irony had a bite to it, too, for that fire was man-caused, and, what is almost unbelievable, was apparently set deliberately.

It is the objective of the Keep Oregon Green organization to remind all citizens that it is the responsibility of all to protect the forests from fires. Its message obviously never got through to a couple of criminal minds—or if it didn't mean anything.

DELIBERATELY setting a fire on forest lands is a felony, punishable by imprisonment in the state penitentiary.

Setting a fire by accident is not a "felony," as such. But it is criminal negligence, nevertheless.

A thoughtlessly flipped match or cigarette, an untended campfire, a carelessly operated power saw—any of these things can set off a conflagration, particularly in seasons such as this when the forests and brushlands are tinder dry.

ONLY a warped mind could—on purpose—set a blaze such as the one which did hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of damage, and cost the state and federal governments hundreds of thousands more in fire fighting expenses—not to mention the narrowly-averted threat to lives and property in a populous area.

But setting a fire such as that through carelessness or neglect, while perhaps not the action of a warped mind, certainly doesn't speak well for its owner's sense of responsibility and citizenship.

Neither action, really, is excusable.—E.A.

Mercy Flights' Job

In the wake of the disastrous earthquake in Montana this week, the cry went up for airplanes—planes to transport the injured, planes to fly in emergency supplies, planes to spot marooned survivors, planes to bring in news reporters to tell the world about the event.

The same was true, to a lesser extent, after the Roseburg disaster, when the airport at the stricken town was humming with activity.

This serves to point out that Medford is lucky to be the "home base" of the only privately operated non-profit air ambulance organization in the U. S., and, so far as is known, in the world.

MERCY FLIGHTS, INC., is now more than 9 1/2 years old. Just 10 years ago this month the idea for such a service was conceived. During the late summer and fall and early winter months of 1949, the plans were developed, money solicited, the first plane and its rudimentary equipment purchased.

In January, 1950, the first "mercy flight"—a phrase we're now used to hereabouts—was made.

Since that time the number of patients carried by the planes has grown to an average of 150 each year—nearly three each week—and the total number of patients has gone over the 1,000-mark.

MERCY FLIGHTS, INC.'s primary job is the transportation of the sick and injured, quickly and safely, to medical treatment—either from elsewhere to Medford, or from this area to the big hospitals of Portland, Seattle or San Francisco.

But the job is not limited to that function alone. For instance, a Mercy Flights plane was the first emergency vehicle, other than fire engines, to arrive at Roseburg before dawn on the morning of Aug. 7, carrying two doctors, three gas company repairmen, and a supply of blood.

On other occasions, the planes have been pressed into moving supplies for the forest service during fire emergencies.

But none of these other activities, worthwhile as they are, have been allowed to hamper the service's readiness to serve emergency patients.

MERCY FLIGHTS' support from this community (meaning not only Medford, but all of Jackson and the surrounding counties of northern Oregon and northern California) has been remarkable.

From the very first, when school youngsters gave their dimes and nickels to make the organization a reality, Mercy Flights has received the cooperation and support, not only of officials and organizations, but of people everywhere.

It has responded by standing by, around the clock, ready to perform its errands of mercy.

THE organization's chief means of financial support comes from the "pre-paid subscriptions," which, for \$5 per year per family unit, or \$3 for individuals, entitles one to free transportation in medical emergencies within a 400-mile radius, and low rates for other forms of ambulance service.

(Charges to non-subscribers are lower than "commercial" air ambulance service for those living in Mercy Flights' service area, but it is the firm's policy not to compete with such commercial services.)

This service is operated without remuneration (other than expenses for the volunteer pilots) by local people. The best way to insure that it will continue is to take out a subscription to its service, or, if already a subscriber, to renew promptly when the subscription expires.

The address: Post Office Box 522, Medford.—E.A.

Dennis the Menace



"GO AHEAD, I'M LISTENIN'."

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 an eye to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.

Call To The Ladies

To the Editor: Attention ladies! To all of you who were 'up in arms' during last Spring's smudge, let's DO something about it!

Attend the public meeting on air pollution abatement. Let them know we don't want the same disheartening experience of cleaning our homes of the almost impossible-to-clean oily smudge again.

Don't let it be "out of sight-out of mind." Another Spring is coming—we want it to be fresh and clean. We need all of you to help make it so.

Please attend, Friday, Aug. 21, 7:30 p.m. at the courthouse. Mrs. Leonard Mathews 1124 West 10th St. Medford.

Ike Said Gullible

To the Editor: Whatever has happened to the thinking of our 'new Ike' as recent news releases have been picturing President Eisenhower in his new and surprising dominating leadership role? He has made it so that the Soviet top-hatchet man, Khrushchev, does not have to go to the trouble of building a Trojan horse to gain entrance to our sanctuary.

President Eisenhower may not be budging one inch from his defiance-shouting position on wall-top archer and stone-thrower emburser, but he has ordered the lowering of the draw-bridge for the avowed enemy to gallop across to a bon homie red-carpet welcoming, more gullible to my way of reasoning than any recorded in history.

The guide-posts are plain, splashed as they are with the blood of millions of captive people, aye, splashed with the blood of our own brave boys, six of their bodies shipped back by the Soviet, the other 11 so evidently shot up they did not dare to return them, denying it all even though we have the recorded voices of enemy pilots gloating over the cowardly attack on a peaceful mission plane near the Rumanian border.

And there is the so recent example of stout-hearted people of Sweden, Norway and Denmark creating such a ground-swell of indignant opposition to "goodwill" tour of Khrushchev and d henchmen through their loved homelands, arranged to the last detail, hour, minute and place, that the Russian premier angrily cancelled it. Are we, the people of our loved America, we, the court of last resort, so weak-kneed, so lacking in the Spirit of 1776, to allow such a shameful disaster to be visited on our loved land? Are we?

One thing is certain sure in the minds of serious thinkers: that had Hitler and his handful of storm troopers been stopped at the Rhine line, the following ghastly war would not have occurred. So must this modern Attila of Russia be stopped in his land-grabbing enslavement of free people before it is disastrous too late. It is disturbing to see our general press going along with this long cherished idea of Eisenhower, stubbornly opposed by John F. Dulles, so lion-hearted that only death could stop him. Life is indeed a continuing fight for survival.

F. J. Clifford Route 2, Box 200F Central Point

Hits Dam Re-Naming

To the Editor: I can sincerely agree with the Oregon Young Democrats in their blast at Senator Neuberger and Congressman Porter for their proposal to re-name Green Peter Dam for Ex-Governor Douglas McKay.

The so-called "Eisenhower Partnership Policy" was very largely the brain child of Douglas McKay when he was Secretary of the Interior, and not only did it delay every government dam in the entire northwest, but McKay, more than any other one man, was responsible for the fact that East Oregon lost the high dam at Hell's Canyon, a dis-service on his part that will hamper the development of the Snake River valley for generations yet to come.

I am not averse to naming public structures for statesmen who have helped to achieve them but I cannot recall another occasion when otherwise seemingly intelligent statesmen have proposed to name such a structure for the man who, during his lifetime, did everything in his

power to prevent such achievement. If it is deemed necessary to rename Green Peter dam I would suggest it be given the name of Wayne Morse, who has, without doubt, done more to bring about the final achievement than any other one man.

D. Ivan Fritts 794 Fortner Lane Ontario, Ore.

SQUARE PEA URGED

Chicago (UPI)—The National Canned Pea Council said Wednesday it would like to see the development of a square pea which won't slip off the blade of a knife.

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

LABOR BILL POLITICS Washington—The next act in the great labor bill drama is going to be dominated by two forces, one obvious, the other as yet unseen.

The force that has emerged already is the conviction of the Congress that the voters want a strong labor reform bill.

The other force will emerge soon. It is the determination of Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts to fight to the end against the specially severe prohibitions of organizational picketing and secondary boycotts that the House of Representatives included in the labor bill.

As the author of the original labor reform bill, and as chairman of the Senate conferees, Kennedy has the power to deadlock the Senate-House conference. He does not want to do so. He is not opposed to regulation of organizational picketing and secondary boycotts. He wants a compromise. But Kennedy is convinced that in their present form, the picketing and boycott clauses in the House bill go decidedly too far and are even, in patches at least, doubtfully constitutional.

"What everybody ought to understand," he says, "is that these clauses in the House bill won't make a dime's worth of difference to big labor, including Jimmy Hoffa and his Teamsters. What they will do is bring the union movement in the South to a dead, screaming halt. And I'm not going to vote for that, much as I want labor reform."

If he can get no compromise of the sort he wants, Kennedy can deadlock the conference, because he can serve of the support of the Senate's other Democratic conferees. By the same token, a majority of the House conferees will surely support their leader, Rep. Graham A. Barden of North Carolina. Barden wants the labor reform bill to be as severe as possible, and is far from averse to impeding the unionization of the South.

As Kennedy will deadlock the conference if he cannot get a compromise, the question really is whether Barden & Co. will offer a compromise. The answer quite largely depends, in turn, on the estimates of the legislative temper of the House and Senate reached by Barden's Republican allies, such as Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona.

The most natural result of a deadlock in conference will be to present the Senate with a choice between no labor reform bill at all, or acceptance,

en bloc, of the labor bill passed by the House. If Goldwater thinks the Senate will take the unchanged House bill, he is likely to want a conference deadlock. It is not at all impossible that just this conclusion will be reached by Goldwater and his fellow Republican conferees, Senate Minority Leader Everett Dirksen of Illinois.

BESIDES all the sectional strains, the labor reform issue is also super-charged with Presidential politics. On the Republican side, the House's affirmative response to President Eisenhower's plea for a strong bill was very fine ointment, but there was a civil rights fly in it all the same.

House Republican Leader Charles Halleck almost tearfully, denied any deal to obtain Southern support by helping to block action on civil rights. Almost within minutes, the Republican-Southern Democratic coalition downright proudly exhibited its unity and power. This kind of thing is not a source of unalloyed delight to Republicans like Vice President Richard M. Nixon, who think civil rights ought to be a vote-getting Republican issue.

On the Democratic side, Sen. Kennedy's position is painful, but it is slightly less painful than the positions of his rivals. He and his brother, Robert, have worked hard and successfully to make labor reforms their family issue. If Kennedy votes against the House bill on a matter of principle, he can still hope to retain much of the support he has gained by his own and his brother's work. For the Senate's other Democratic Presidential aspirants, however, the choice can lie between being against labor reform, which the country wants, or being against labor, which will have much power at the Democratic convention.

THE choice is especially painful for the leading un-avowed and inactive candidate, Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson of Texas. His state is so devious of a strong bill that most of the Texas Congressmen, including the member from Johnson's own district, refused to support their revered chief, Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn. Yet labor opposition, if added to Johnson's Southern handicaps, would be a severe blow to Johnson's Presidential hopes.

As Johnson is in the middle, however, and as he has a genius for finding ways out of dilemmas of this sort, a compromise both he and Kennedy can vote for may perhaps be agreed on somehow. (Copyright 1959 New York Herald Tribune, Inc.)

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

TWO BROADWAY characters, on a sightseeing trip through the Everglades, were separated from their guide. Suddenly one cried, "Help! An alligator just bit my leg off." "That's terrible," groaned the other. "Which one?" "How should I know?" asked the victim. "All alligators look alike to me."

Banker Arthur Goodman is satisfied with the progress his wife is making in auto driving. "Six more lessons," promises Goodman, "and I'm going to put the door back on our garage."

David Niven, quite a master of the colorful phrase, returned empty-handed from a fishing trip off Montauk Point recently. "All I did," he admitted ruefully, "was to flog the water to a froth."

When a couple of automobiles are double parked, observes Buddy Hackett, you never have to think twice to know which one was parked by your wife. It's the one on top.

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Time Said Ripe for Eisenhower Visit to Asia To Aid Relations

By ARNOLD DIBBLE Tokyo—(UPI)—If ever the time was ripe for a visit to Asia by President Eisenhower, that time is now.

Since the President decided that he has good-health, goodwill, and will travel, there have been all kinds of suggestions, feelers and trial balloons concerning a tour of Asia. Asians realize that the focal point of the cold war still is in Europe, but they also caution the United States to keep its eye on Asia.

As UPI's Asian affairs expert in Washington, Rutherford Poats, pointed out in a dispatch last week, U.S. relations with uncommitted nations of Asia have improved dramatically with the past year—mainly, it must be said, through the blundering of Red China in Quemoy, Tibet and with her communes; and the bullying threats of Russia in the Berlin crisis.

Ike is just the man to put the frosting on the cake in this happier state of affairs, to consolidate and strengthen the better relations building. Resent European Policy

Those are the immediate reasons why a visit now by the American President would heighten American prestige.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

As this is written, the wires are humming with BIG news. Earthquakes. Flash floods. Heat waves SOMEWHERE ELSE. The kind of news that makes headlines.

It makes for avid reading. But—

How is a commentator going to comment on that kind of news?

EARTHQUAKES just happen. Flash floods just happen. Heat waves just happen.

There isn't much we can do about it. We can't even shake our heads wisely and say THERE OUGHT A BE A LAW. We could pass laws, of course, FORBIDDING earthquakes. We could pass laws forbidding flash floods. We could pass laws forbidding heat waves.

But it would do no good. It is so obvious that it would do no good that no one even proposes it.

PERHAPS it is just as well. There are already so many laws on the books that we can't find time enough, or officials enough to enforce them all. There are times when it appears to a moderate cynic that we can't even REMEMBER them all.

If we can't remember them, how can we enforce them?

A CASE in point: In our sister city of Roseburg, a truck loaded with explosives blew up with shattering force. A dozen lives were claimed. A considerable part of the city's business district was destroyed.

Almost the first thought that occurred to us was that there should have been a law to PREVENT such things. Or a rule. Or a regulation.

AS IT turned out, it appears that there was a rule—an interstate commerce commission rule requiring trucks carrying dangerous explosives to be manned by two persons, one of whom must remain constantly with the explosives-laden vehicle.

In this particular case, that rule if it had been strictly observed would in all probability have prevented the catastrophe. The truck was parked in front of a building that caught fire. It is presumed that the fire caused the contents of the truck to explode.

It must be assumed that if one attendant had remained with the truck in accordance with the rule that has been cited, he would have driven the truck away in time to avoid the explosion.

A THOUGHT: Might it not be better if we reduced the number of laws and rules and regulations to the point where those remaining on the books could be ENFORCED?

It seems to me we would be better off in the long run if we did just that.

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We Give GREEN STAMPS

CENTRAL REXALL DRUG Main and Central

But there are other and deeper reasons that perhaps would add up to more in the long run.

Asians always have resented the United States' "Europe first" policy. This feeling, when set against the oriental exclusion laws, has given many Asians an attitude of being treated like "second class" citizens.

Asian nations also are just beginning to dig out from centuries of Western colonialism. There still is much evidence of national inferiority complexes and there still is a reservoir of bitterness toward former rulers.

Thus, a visit by an American president—especially one so revered as President Eisen-

hower—could do much to alleviate and palliate these feelings.

No President Visited To understand Asians' feelings, it must be realized that no American president ever has visited Asia while in office.

There is scarcely a country in Asia—those behind the iron curtain except—in which Mr. Eisenhower's presence alone could not quiet, if not actually lead to peaceful solution of, some extremely important problems.

Eisenhower has said he would like to travel the world once he has left the White House. It is to be hoped, that so far as Asia is concerned, he can do it before.

Today & Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

FROM CUBA TO LAOS

At the Conference of American States in Santiago, Chile, the central problem has been how to make an old principle fit a new situation. How can we apply the doctrine of non-intervention to which we are deeply committed, to the irreconcilable conflict between Castro and Trujillo, between the Cuban revolution and the Dominican dictatorship?

The doctrine of non-intervention was adopted by the American States in 1936. It is sweeping and absolute. It forbids "intervention . . . directly or indirectly, and for whatever reason, in the internal or external affairs of the parties" Taken literally, this would forbid intervention even to check an intervention—for example, by Castro's forces against the Dominican Republic or by Trujillo forces against Cuba.

The sweeping and absolute nature of the doctrine is explained by its history. Until the adoption in the 1930 by the Roosevelt administration of the Good Neighbor policy, this country had been in the habit of intervening freely in Central America. We had intervened in Cuba, in Haiti, in what is now the Dominican Republic, in Nicaragua, Panama, and Mexico. The Latin American states demanded and the Roosevelt administration agreed that these interventions must stop, and the language of the doctrine is designed to remove all doubt and to close every possibility of evasion.

AS the doctrine was addressed to this country, it was easily enforceable when in 1936 non-intervention had become our own national policy. But the conflict between Castro and Trujillo presents a quite different problem of enforcement. For Castro and Trujillo are mortal enemies, each convinced that he must destroy the other or be destroyed himself. Neither believes in non-intervention as a governing principle in this feud, and neither can be counted upon to observe the principle by suppressing clandestine forces on his own territory.

Moreover, even if either of them wanted to, it would be hard to suppress these forces.

It is, then, not easy to apply and enforce the established principle of non-intervention. The best, it would appear, that can be done with it is to dampen down by diplomatic conciliation the more overt and embarrassing hostile acts of Castro's and Trujillo's partisans, hangers on, clients, and mercenaries.

WHEN the President sees Mr. K. K. means, so he has told us, to talk about the fighting in Laos. If Mr. K. is in a candid and confident mood, this might well prove to be a most useful way to open up an enlightening discussion. For the interesting question about Laos is whether Mr. K. is the driver or merely a passenger. If he is only a passenger, which is almost certainly the case, if the drive is from Hanoi and Peiping and not from Moscow, the President and Mr. K. will have something very interesting to talk about.

One of the interesting things would be the fact that though the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. are much the strongest powers within their respective spheres of influence, they are very far from being supreme. The Soviet Union must deal with Red China as an equal power, and we, of course, have no pretensions to supremacy in Western Europe or in the Western hemisphere.

Only in respect to the capacity to annihilate with nuclear weapons is this a two-power world. If, as the result of the conversations which are to be held, the illusion could be dispelled that whatever happens in the world derives from Moscow or from Washington, a new sanity would have begun to dawn in world affairs.

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