

From Oregon's Press

Oregon's newspapers are, generally, vigorous and well-edited. The following are editorials, articles or column comment from various Oregon papers, quoted either in full or in part, and selected because of their general interest. Their publication does not imply either approval or disapproval on the part of the Mail Tribune of the opinions given.

23rd Amendment Is Badly Needed

This newspaper has always felt that our federal income tax was immoral.

It is definitely socialist and is not related to actual need for financing a government that follows the principles of our Constitution.

We have read considerably about the evils of our foreign aid program and have come to the conclusion that the only way to stop this aid was to cut off the source — the income tax.

Thus, when we were approached some six weeks ago, by proponents of the 23rd amendment — which would abolish the income tax — we listened with considerable interest.

Here were people that spoke our language. Here was a vehicle for accomplishing what we believe should be done. Here was a way to start a return to constitutional government.

When Willis E. Stone, Los Angeles industrial engineer, appeared in Medford last week at a series of meetings he drew considerable support for the amendment from thinking, mature people. He started the ball rolling that we hope will eventually result in Oregon formally approving it as Wyoming and Texas have already done.

Stone spoke last September before members of Scottish Rite and their friends in Portland. Since that time "Volunteers for Constitutional Government of Oregon, Inc." has been formed to carry on the work of promoting the amendment.

Each Congressional district has been organized. This, the fourth congressional district, was the last to receive attention of the group. Several meetings have been held in Medford and elsewhere and support for the amendment has come from practically all walks of life.

Opposition to the amendment is bound to come from those with socialist leanings, those who want the government to control our lives, those to whom freedom is an idle word.

This opposition must be expected. But if facts will kill the opposition, they'll die for 15 years of research has been put into getting the facts that will answer any fair-minded opposition. — Times of Rogue River.

23 Skidoo

By CHARLES A. SPRAGUE

A chap by the name of Willis Stone, said to be a great-grandson of the late Chief Justice Harlan F. Stone, has been doing the luncheon circuit in Oregon endeavoring to build up support for the "23rd Amendment" to the federal constitution. It is quite a package. It forbids the government to engage "in any business, professional, commercial, financial or industrial enterprise except as specified in the constitution." All "activities" banned by this provision would have to be liquidated within three years. Tacked on is another section which repeals the Sixteenth (income tax) amendment and forbids any future levy of taxes on personal incomes, estates or gifts.

We note that the Portland Chamber of Commerce gave Stone its forum luncheon period for a speech in support of this amendment, and some civic groups in Southern Oregon also gave him audience. One amendment, repeal of which Stone didn't advocate, guarantees freedom of speech and assembly, so he is quite at liberty to mount a soap box and declaim. There is no requirement that a body provide him a captive audience however, and it is rather surprising that a group presumably as intelligent as the Portland chamber would furnish the soap box for such agitation.

For who dreams the government can or should get along without levying taxes on personal income, estates and gifts? Substitute levies to produce the sums required would compound the burden or distribute it inequitably. Manufacturers' taxes would pyramid; a federal tax on top of state sales taxes would be so onerous as to dry up trade; and marking up corporation taxes would gripe the person backing the "23rd Amendment."

As for getting the government out of business in three years, that's a pipedream. The only business given tolerance in the constitution is the post office. Everything else would have to go. All these federal hydro-electric dams would go on the auctionblock — they would have a market, but could the private capital required be assembled in three years? At the same time the vast federal forests would be put up for sale, and the public grazing lands, who would bid on the Panama Ca-

nal, and on what terms? All the stored crop surpluses, nine billion worth, would be dumped. Even the post exchanges at remote army posts would have to be held. Government arsenals, like the one at Rock Island, would be disposed of, and presumably the government would have to liquidate all its investment in plants for developing missiles, space engines, and advanced weapons, leaving all this to private business.

Sure we could abolish all these taxes and sell or give away all these assets. We could go back a century and a half and live the simple life of our forefathers. But anyone in his senses knows we aren't going to do anything of the sort.

For all their shrewdness in business, businessmen are often both dumb and glib in matters relating to politics. They go around weeping in their beards over the deplorable state of the union and feel themselves utterly impotent in influencing the course of government. Many let themselves be played for suckers for the most outlandish programs, frequently disguised as anti-Communism, which have absolutely no chance of adoption. Really they out not to be so dumb. Contributing money or time to promote this 23rd amendment is a waste of both, as every sensible businessman will tell you, even though he might welcome such a reversal of policy.

The signoff for this column is "23 Skidoo!" — Oregon Statesman, Salem.

Mathematics of Teachers' Pay

Last spring we sharpened up a pencil and figured out the probable lifetime earnings of an Oregon college teacher and a New York truck driver.

The result was worse than we expected. The truck driver starts at about \$6,200.

Now we have the steel strike settled. The average steelworker is to get \$3.24 an hour plus fringe benefits equal to about 30 cents an hour. Forgetting the fringes, that's \$6,739 a year if he works 40 hours each week. Concurrently we see by a report of the Oregon Education association that classroom teachers in Oregon have gained a new high in earnings this year. The average teacher gets \$5,334 a year. He has to go back to school every

third summer. But if he works the other two he may pad his annual income out to an average of perhaps \$8,500 a year, if he's lucky.

And \$5,800 a year, although it's far below the steelworker's wage, compares roughly with average salaries in other white collar occupations demanding college backgrounds.

The youth who heads for the smelters or the loading platforms when he's 18 may be a clod without prestige. And youth who sets out after his Ph. D. in hopes that he some day can contribute to science or social betterment may be a bright young lad honored by his community. But the clod would make the best mathematician, and he has the figures to prove it. — Capital Journal, Salem.

Idealism Vs. The Billfold

The press around the nation has been complaining loudly and bitterly about a recent ruling of the Internal Revenue Service that propaganda advertising for political purposes can no longer be deducted as a business expense by corporations.

We will agree — it's tough. It tries many a publisher's idealism.

Because many a fine, crisp dollar has poured into newspaper and magazine coffers from long and expensive campaigns such as the anti-power propaganda of the privately owned utilities, and the monumental campaign of the railroads against government regulations.

We also sympathize with the agencies that obviously won't get as many such ads to handle at their usual commissions.

But, and this is where idealism really hurts — right in the pocketbook nerve — we feel we must agree with the United States this time.

We must face it. Large corporations do have an unfair advantage over the average citizen in having more dollars with which to influence government decisions.

And when those corporations obtain extra advantage by getting tax deductions for propaganda, somebody (that's usually the little guy) has to make up the difference with extra taxes.

And when that same propaganda may influence legislators to enact laws detrimental to the same little guys who pay those extra taxes, we feel a little squeamish. — Coos Bay World.

Best Buy!

In "30," a movie that played recently at the Rivoli Theater, Jack Webb has the part of an editor. And he says something to a copy boy that all editors would, we're sure, like to frame and hang on the wall. This is what he said: "It's got print on it that tells stories that hundreds of good men all over the world

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. 5 Sunday, Jan. 17, 1960

No Progress Made In Paper Strike

Portland — (UP) — A 3-hour meeting Friday between representatives of the Oregon Journal and Stereotypers Union produced "no progress" toward settlement of the dispute.

Federal Mediator Elmer Williams said, however, that both sides had agreed to meet again Monday at 10 a.m.

Friday's session was the ninth joint meeting held since the strike began last Nov. 10. Meanwhile, Web Pressmen's Union Local 17 Friday filed a civil suit in U.S. District Court against the papers over disputes arising from the strike.

The suit charged the newspaper publishing companies violated their agreement with the union by purporting to terminate the employee status of pressroom employees. It also asked a mandatory judgment directing the two newspapers to carry out so-called obligations of the contract and to reimburse the union for any costs incurred by the suit.

Crater TV Sale Scheduled Jan. 30

The annual Crater Lions club television auction will be held Saturday, Jan. 30, between 6 and 8 p.m., club officials have announced.

Manville Heisel, Medford, will be auctioneer. Proceeds from the auction will be used to help finance construction of a wading pool at the Jackson st. park.

Merchandise to be sold will be donated by valley merchants, club officials said.

have broken their necks to get. It gives a lot of people information who wouldn't have known these things if we hadn't taken the trouble to tell them! It's the sum total of the work of a lot of guys who don't quit. It's a newspaper, that's all! And it only costs 10 cents, that's all. But if you only read the comic section or the want ads — it's still the best buy for your money in the world." — Pendleton East Oregonian.

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 Sunday, January 17—3 P.M. Soloist, Chorus and Orchestra
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Before and after your visit to either of these events have a glass of MILK. Active people know the value of good health—that's why they drink plenty of MILK. Milk is nature's most perfect food and builds energy for young and old alike. You NEVER outgrow your need for milk! DRINK AT LEAST 3 GLASSES OF MILK A DAY!

