

# 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.

## The Hard Life Of the Liberal

The path of the liberal is a difficult one. Sometimes he looks at the conservatives, and even the radicals, with envy. For the radicals, know exactly where their paths lead. There is seldom any question of what to think, which way to vote. The way is well signposted, with few paths leading off to deviations. But not so with the liberal. On every issue, as a new phase arises, he must reevaluate his thinking if he is to keep a clear balance, an objective attitude, and act accordingly.

For instance: What are the real issues in the use of child labor in foreign factories that compete with the United States? Who is the best judge of whether the sand dunes of Oregon should or should not be made into a national park — with what boundaries? And how can we determine which argument is really in the public interest and which is concealed selfishness?

What are the real truths in the arguments between business and labor, the statements of politicians representing their various constituencies, the differences between the law enforcers and the social workers?

Every day the practicing liberal faces these and myriad other problems until the very process of morning awakening can become a challenge in itself.

The brain grows tired. The mind becomes numb. And it is then the envy of the conservative (or the radical) grows.

All the conservative has to do is exactly like his father did. Any small variations of thinking and conduct entailed in being pulled toward the middle of the 20th century are ordained by a staunch bulwark of editorial and advertising advice in such publications as the Saturday Evening Post and U.S. News and World Report.

The radical? All he has to do is oppose the conservative, right down the line.

His mind can be as closed as President William McKinley's, just dressed in opposing colors.

Who could blame the liberal for wanting to join at odd, tired moments to join either rank for that safe, sure feeling of being told exactly what to do, what to think, by leaders who often haven't bothered to do either in such a long time that they cannot remember if they ever did.

It seems so invitingly relaxing, so nirvanish, to quote the Zens of modern beatnik Buddhism.

But with relaxation comes again that itch that one thinking man diagnosed as the avocational disease of the true liberal.

The itch to know for himself the true facts in the panorama unfolding day by day. The itch to feel the actual experience of participation in the life going on about him rather than accept a watered down or over-emotionalized version of it from some self-proclaimed leader.

The itch to live, alert to every moment until death gets in the way.

So he turns away again from the easy life he sees on either side and resumes rotating his head, trying to look at all sides of all questions, hoping he will be able to evaluate — and act — intelligently.

It helps immeasurably if he has a sense of humor.

— Robert W. Leedom in Coos Bay World.

## 'Now Lie In It!'

From what I read in the papers, every property owner in Ashland should have been at Medford's annual Chamber of Commerce meeting the other night.

Seems they had a speaker who told them what is wrong with their town; with colored pictures to prove it.

And what he said there goes double in spades for Ashland.

Among other recommendations, he suggested elimination of huge unsightly billboards which hide and deface all natural beauty.

If this expert thinks Medford has billboards, he ought to take a trip on down to Ashland.

We've got billboards telling people to read other billboards.

And the first ones cover up the second ones so that you've got to go around the block to see what you missed on the first ones.

They have a place in American Life just like measles and whooping cough.

Yes, I'm all for them if they are about two feet square and about a mile from the nearest road.

On one of my first trips here I came out of a dense fog just north of town.

Just in time to come face to face with a huge 30-foot cobra stretched across the landscape and apparently dripping venom all over my windshield.

I'll tell you that was a chilling sight.

Especially for a guy who is afraid of gopher snakes.

And the sad part is that after the monster had apparently flown the coop, so to speak, the sign lingers on.

Hasn't anybody around here got a good chain saw?

The expert also recommended the use of paint and color to accent or hide a city's good and bad points.

Now before you apply that recommendation to Ashland, you've just got to give it a lot of consideration.

I am reminded of a courteous gentleman who, when walking down the street met a lady acquaintance carrying her new baby.

The infant was not cherub; in fact it was downright ugly.

Mustering up his gallantry and realizing that some comment was necessary, the gentleman finally stammered:

My, that certainly IS a baby, isn't it!

Yes, you've just got to compliment the Medford group for bringing in a man who will talk straight from the shoulder.

As long as we are all apathetic or worse; heedless to the aesthetic qualities which make life so much more pleasant; and unwilling to speak up for fear of jeopardizing our quest for the almighty dollar, we deserve what we usually get.

Like my old German professor used to shriek when I became entangled in a horrible sequence of verbs:

"You haff buttered your bread, now lie in it!"

— Edd Roundtree in Ashland Tidings.

## He's a Coward Every Other Year

Every election year we learn what a low down coward we are.

A fellow stops in for a visit and before the visit is concluded he says, "I'm thinking of running for —. What do you think my chances would be?"

We proceed to talk all around the subject, never directly answering his question. We talk about who the candidates for the office may be, the issues likely to come up, if any, and the general political climate. By indirection we try to get through to him what we think his decision should be. But we don't come right out and tell him.

We haven't always done this, however. We learned the hard way. In a couple cases we thought we knew the persons well enough that we could give them direct answers, tell them that we did not think they could win. We not only thought we could speak directly in answer to their questions but, because they were good friends, we owed them honest, direct answers. We didn't want them to spend a lot of money and time and effort to no avail.

In both cases it finally got through our thick skull that they really didn't want the answers we gave them. If we were not ready to encourage them to be candidates they didn't want us to answer their questions. In both cases good friendships cooled considerably. One has been cool ever since.

When the political bug bites him the victim can't be saved. He just has to run for office. No amount of thinking on the subject will change his decision. He knows that in every contest somebody has to lose. But he never sees himself in the role of the loser.

So, in an election year we're a coward. Even if we think the odds against a man winning are 100 to 1 we don't say anything outright to discourage him. Urgently as we may want to say to him, "It's for the best that you be told that you can't win. It will save you a lot of heartache and money to forget it right now," we keep our lips buttoned tight.

Good friends are not easily come by. We will never again lose one by giving him political advice he doesn't want.

— J. W. Forrester in Pendleton East Oregonian.

## This 'Sorry' Age

Walter Lippmann devoted a recent column to criticizing our economic objective to "maximize consumer goods." So intent are we on comforts we fail to support more vital programs for the national welfare. Eric Allen, referring in his editorial column of the Medford Mail Tribune, agrees with Lippmann's concern "about the self-satisfied, com-

placent, flabby, sanctimonious, conforming attitude so prevalent today." Allen writes:

"America today is becoming a rather terrifying latter-day Rome — eating, drinking, sleeping and playing while the Barbarians gather their forces and muster their strength."

There is truth in the charge that we are decidedly conformist in this day and age, also that we are more or less slaves to "modern conveniences." But part of this reaction may be due to a "guilt complex." We are surprised at our own prosperity. We take it all in stride — power washing machines, television, motor boats, — but still think we must be cheating to have them.

We really aren't as depraved as the Medford editor, following Lippmann, portrays. And as far as our "competition" (the Soviet Union) is concerned its goals are turning more to what these critics condemn, consumer goods, with the time-payment plan to speed their distribution. America will not fall because we have pop-up toasters and electric razors — the wide spread of the comforts of life strengthens rather than weakens our form of socio-economic organizations. Depriving the people of their gadgets would hardly make them better citizens.

What we should do is turn the "guilt" feeling into performance of good works, cultivation of high standards of culture (not turning to the vacuum of the beatnik). We have many and great public works to perform, and can well divert part of our abundance to such undertakings. Harvard College's recent ingathering of \$82 million for its undergirding is a sample of what should be done, in proper scale, among other institutions. Huge contributions for medical research are another. Our material goods should not reduce us to gluttony but spur us to higher achievement. — Oregon Statesman, Salem.

## Time To Heed Warnings

The resignation of Dr. Harold M. Erickson as State Health Officer and the release of Oregon's comparatively dismal 1959 health record have caused many Oregonians to take another look at the state's defense against disease and death. And that, if there can be any consolation to jerking up roots and leaving one's home in mid-life, was clearly what the health officer hoped his letter of resignation would accomplish.

He admittedly was concerned that some people might conclude Oregon's health record had suddenly gone into a tailspin, or that the state is now unhealthy in comparison to the rest of the nation. The 1959 health picture, Dr. Erickson emphasized, merely was an extension of a trend of the past several years. If last year's statistics are correctly viewed as "danger signals" indicating the need for more attention to our defenses, both Dr. Erickson and Governor Mark Hatfield point out there is no reason Oregon cannot quickly regain its traditional national

leadership in the public health field.

In any event, there certainly is no reason for panic. We may have slipped, but we definitely haven't fallen, except in a few areas, below the national average.

What perhaps is a more serious implication of the whole affair is that such shock treatment would be necessary to awaken Oregon residents to the need for more attention to such a vital resource as their own health. As anyone knows who witnessed the outpouring of affection and esteem at his testimonial banquet December 30, there are precious few

## NEVER SAY DIE

Springfield, Vt. — After George Connor wounded a 13-point, 210-pound buck, he had to wrestle the animal for several minutes before it bled to death.

men around with Dr. Erickson's ability to weld all the divergent official and voluntary interests in the health field into the smoothly-functioning team which has carried Oregon with remarkable success through one of the most difficult periods in its history.

A state's public health record invariably is exactly as good as the support given by its citizenry. That support is not necessarily always financial; it also is made up of such simple steps as each individual obtaining immunizations when asked to do so by health authorities.

The finest tribute Oregon could give Dr. Erickson would be the resolution of each resident to help restore the state to leadership in the health field. After 25 years of dedicated and distinguished service, he certainly has earned such a lasting memorial. — Oregon Health Bulletin.

## Teamsters Express Confidence in Vote

Officials of Teamsters locals in Medford and Klamath Falls are confident that the Teamsters Union will win if an election is held to determine whether grocery store clerks want to join the Retail Merchants association, according to a story in the Oregon Teamster.

The Retail Clerks association has petitioned the National Labor Relations Board for an election of grocery store employees in the two areas. If an election is granted by the NLRB, grocery employees will vote on whether they want the Teamsters or Retail Merchants association as their bargaining agents.

Grocery store employees in Medford, Grants Pass, Ashland and Klamath Falls have been members of the Teamsters union for more than 16 years, because the Retail Merchants association did not

serve this area, the story said. The Oregon Teamster is the official publication of Joint Council No. 37, Portland. Confidence that the Teamsters will win an election if one is scheduled was expressed at a meeting in Klamath Falls recently when aspects of the change were discussed.

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. 5 Sunday, Jan. 31, 1960

**RECEIVES AWARD**  
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