

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.

Petition

This occurred July 4, 1951 in Madison, Wis. A reporter for The Capital Times started down the street with a "petition" that contained the preamble of the Declaration of Independence, six of the first 10 amendments to the Constitution—the so-called Bill of Rights—and the 15th amendment to the Constitution. The "petition" concluded with the pledge with which Thomas Jefferson ended the Declaration of Independence.

The contents of the "petition" were clearly labeled and furthermore the reporter explained them. We thought the story so interesting that we put that issue of The Capital Times in our files. Here is the story:

Out of 112 persons interviewed at Madison's Fourth of July celebrations Wednesday, only one man had the "courage" to sign a "petition" which consisted exclusively of sections from the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights.

Fear of the "consequences" of putting their names on paper was the reason given by the majority of those approached while they celebrated their "independence."

Many of them said they were afraid to sign any petitions. Twenty of those asked to sign the document asked the reporter if he was a Communist.

"You can't get me to sign that—I'm trying to get loyalty clearance for a government job," was the comment of the first person asked to sign.

A Villas park picnicker, who said he was a lawyer, read the document carefully, handed it back to the reporter, and said, "You're trying to pull something—that isn't in the constitution."

The lone signer was Wentworth A. Millar, 806 University Ave., an insurance salesman for the Mutual Service Insurance Co.

"Sure I'll sign the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights—we were never closer to losing the things that they stand for than we are today," Millar said.

"Get the hell out of here with that Communist stuff," another fourth of July picnicker said bluntly.

"I can't sign that paper because I work for civil service," a young woman declared.

Several of the persons asked to sign the "petition" mistook it for a mimeographed pamphlet that was distributed throughout the city Wednesday by the Madison chapter of the American Peace Crusade.

The "Peace Crusade" pamphlet asked for removal of American troops from Korea and asked that congress make "no more laws taxing the workingman to pay for the rich man's war in Korea."

One woman, who said she was waiting for the fireworks at Villas park, read the petition carefully and refused to sign it.

"Young man," she said, "are you trying to tell me that this is a copy of the Declaration of Independence?"

She read aloud the section of the preamble which says, "That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness..."

"That may be the Russian Declaration of Independence, but you can't tell me that it is ours," she said hotly.

"I see you are using an old Commie trick, putting God's name on a radical petition," an elderly man said after he had read the petition.

"Just go away and leave us alone—we want to eat our dinner," another said.

"Why is it that here in Madison, every time there is a holiday we have to be subjected to a gang of dangerous

radicals from the university?" he added testily.

"I'd sign it in a minute, but I'd be off the job tomorrow," another said.

Darkness called off the search for other signatures.—Pendleton East Oregonian.

Printer's Devil

Nearly every industry has special words which mean something to that trade and none other.

The newspaper business is no exception. In fact, it may have a greater trade vocabulary than most. And, along with loggers, a newspaperman's language is usually on the colorful side.

John Henderson, production manager of the Herald and News, brought us a copy of Linotype's house organ, Straight Matter, which solved the mystery of the origin of the term "printers' devil."

The house organ editor looked it up in the library of his company's director of typographic development and found the answer in Gesta Typographical by Charles T.

Jacobi. The volume was published in London in 1897.

Here is what Mr. Jacobi wrote: "This trade term originated in Italy. Aldus Manutius was a printer in Venice. He owned a slave boy who helped him in his office, and some of his customers were superstitious enough to believe that the boy was an emissary of Satan."

"He was known all over the city as 'the little black devil' from his dirty appearance as his face and hands were generally well smudged with printing ink."

"Desiring to satisfy the curiosity of his patrons, Manutius one day exhibited the boy in the streets, and proclaimed as follows: 'I, Aldus Manutius, Printer to the Holy Church and the Doge, have this day made public exposure of the Printers' Devil. All who think he is not flesh and blood may come and prick him!'"

The Mergenthaler Linotype Company is interested in knowing if anyone has any other explanation, authoritative or completely unauthoritative, on the origin of the term, Printers' Devil.—Klamath Falls Herald and News.

The final answer can only be given, of course, by the voting next Tuesday. A few observers, notably the extremely able Alan Otten of the "Wall Street Journal," have found that most of the still-undecided voters are Protestants. The people could perhaps swing solidly against Kennedy at the last minute.

But as of now, it is generally supposed that Kennedy's Catholicism, like his alleged youth, has been a major asset rather than a hindrance.

If this is correct, the lesson of Wisconsin will have far-reaching national significance. For Wisconsin, it must be remembered, is not a heavily Catholic state, like the New England states. Its Catholic voters comprise only about 30 per cent of the electorate.

This is about the same percentage as in New York, Pennsylvania, and Illinois. It is well under New Jersey. It is a bit above California, which has approximately 22 per cent Catholics, and Michigan, with 24 per cent. But on balance, the Wisconsin situation pretty well typifies the situation in the big, key states where the Catholic vote is the most important swing vote.

In these states, the Catholic vote is the most important swing vote precisely because Catholic voters, once rather solidly Democratic, have been drifting more and more into the Republican party in recent years. In New York, for instance, the wisest politicians and pollsters believe that in the Catholic families that supported Alfred E. Smith, about half the present-day voters plumped for Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1952 and 1956.

In New York, therefore, a Catholic Democratic Presidential nominee who could tempt 450,000 of these newly Republican Catholics back into the Democratic party, while losing only 50,000 normally Democratic Protestant votes, would impose a special handicap of no less than 400,000 votes on his Republican rival. It would not be an insurmountable handicap, since President Eisenhower carried New York by a million and a half votes. But it would be a very heavy handicap. This in fact explains why the New York delegates are tending towards Kennedy.

This tendency in New York and elsewhere will be powerfully stimulated if Kennedy wins by a good majority in Wisconsin. No one can complain, either, if part of the reason for a strong party Wisconsin swing to Kennedy is a reassessment of what is called "the Catholic issue." Catholic voters cannot be blamed for resenting the unwritten rule excluding Catholics from the highest office. At least until the silly rule has been decisively broken.

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JUDGING from the crowds and their response to Kennedy, this was a decidedly successful day. By practical political standards, moreover, this day's work by Kennedy had a special interest of its own, because of its locale.

Most of the time was spent in Wisconsin's ninth Congressional district. This is one of the Minnesota-oriented, predominantly Protestant, predominantly farming districts that Kennedy at first almost conceded to Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota. Yet here was Kennedy, campaigning hard in the ninth in the belief that he now has about an even chance to carry this district. A belief seemingly confirmed by the public polls.

This only serves to underline a point of utmost potential importance, which is also just about the only point of argument between the Humphrey and Kennedy camps. The point is that Kennedy appears to be gaining far more Catholic votes than he is losing Protestant votes in this crucial primary.

HIS Catholicism has unquestionably helped Kennedy very greatly in the Catholic district of eastern Wisconsin; but it has not handicapped him fatally in the Protestant western districts. In the latter group of districts, he has at least gained ground since the real fight started, although it is still uncertain whether he has gone over the top.

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OSC Among U.S. Leading Colleges For Doctor's Work

Corvallis — Oregon State college has become one of the nation's major institutions for doctor's degree work, according to national reports received by President A. L. Strand.

The reports show that OSC ranks seventh in the Far West and forty-seventh in the nation in the number of doctor's degree graduates in the past five years.

OSC has averaged 48 doctor's degree graduates during each of the past five years. That number is expected to double beginning in 1961 when it is anticipated that more than 100 doctor's degrees will be conferred at June commencement.

Nearly half of the record-number 750 graduate students enrolled this year at OSC are working for their doctor's degrees, according to Dr. H. P. Hansen, dean of the graduate school. OSC has one of the

highest percentages of its graduate students working for doctor's degrees in the country, Dean Hansen noted.

Enrollment Increases
Graduate school enrollment

Washington — Mrs. Collins P. More, Republican national committeewoman from Oregon, will head a seven-woman delegation from that state at the eighth annual Republican Women's Conference Saturday through Thursday.

ment at Oregon State has increased so markedly during the last decade that today one out of every 10 students on campus is taking graduate work, Hansen added.

University of Washington is the Northwest leader with an average of 107 doctor's degrees each year since 1934. The other five Western schools ahead of OSC are from California. University of Oregon is 64th.

The OSC graduate school enrollment includes students from 43 states and from 18

different foreign countries. Nearly half of the graduate students are majoring in scientific fields with 155 working for doctor's degrees in science. Practically all of the doctor's degree dissertations are concerned with basic research.

Chemistry is the departmental leader with 51 doctor's degree candidates, followed by general science, mathematics, botany, physics, zoology, agricultural economics, soils, entomology, electrical engineering and forest management.

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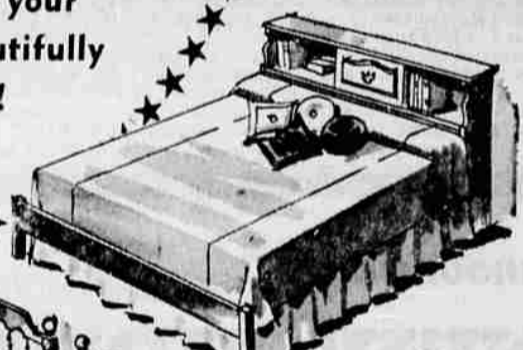
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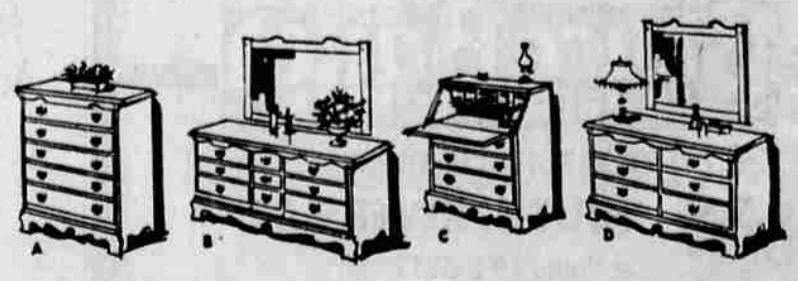
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