

Clumsy Summit Politics

President Eisenhower used a heavy hand when he announced that Vice President Nixon might become his stand-in at the summit conference if it goes on too long. Almost anybody could see partisan politics sticking out of this gesture at 500 paces. The President will be wise if he quietly sheaves the idea.

Ostensibly the announcement was a veiled warning to Premier Khrushchev to be ready for business the first week of the talks, scheduled to open May 16. The President has agreed to visit Portugal May 23 and 24. If the summit talks are still going on then, he said, he would either return to Paris or, if "domestic requirements" necessitate a return to Washington, will send Mr. Nixon in his place.

AS 55 Democratic Congressmen almost instantly made clear with a loud cry of pain, this did not fool anybody. If the President was warning Khrushchev, he was clearly also revealing an intention to help Mr. Nixon's buildup as his successor by identifying him with the summit negotiations.

From a political standpoint such tactics are to be expected, and the Democrats might as well get accustomed to them. Every sitting President naturally makes use of the advantages of his position in behalf of himself or his party in the election. But wise Presidents recognize a limit, and Mr. Eisenhower should know that the limit lies somewhere this side of the summit conference. For the national welfare, these talks should be kept well clear of partisan politics.

THE Vice President has no constitutional function whatever to perform at a summit conference. He has no authority and no responsibility that would make him anything more than an errand boy. The Secretary of State, as foreign policy adviser to the President, does have constitutional authority. If any stand-in were needed, Secretary Herter, who is intimately familiar with the negotiations, ought to fill the role.

But why a stand-in at all? The summit talks are important enough to warrant Mr. Eisenhower's sustained attention. They are important enough not to be hobbled with arbitrary closing dates. They are even important enough to justify the President in postponing a purely ceremonial Portugal visit if need be. Should the talks be making important progress at the end of a week, the President would be betraying his highest responsibilities if he allowed anything whatever to interfere with continuing them.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Stronger Words Needed

The 1959 Legislature enacted legislation that provides for the replacement of county coroners with medical investigators under the state Board of Health. But the Legislature did not provide the Board of Health with necessary funds to implement the program.

Because of this, the state health officer, Dr. Richard Wilcox (formerly of Pendleton), appeared recently before the state Emergency Board to ask for \$42,000 to put the program into operation. After first flatly refusing to give any funds, the Emergency Board finally appropriated \$10,000 and told Dr. Wilcox to find the additional \$32,000 within his budget.

WHEN this was under discussion at the Emergency Board meeting, the state director of finance, Freeman Holmer, charged the board with "legislative irresponsibility." Later Gov. Hatfield said he supported Mr. Holmer's opinion.

So do we. It is irresponsibility that goes much deeper than refusal by members of the Legislature to appropriate funds for a program which the Legislature created. That's bad enough. But there's more to it than that. By saying to Dr. Wilcox that he should find \$32,000 from the funds given his department for its entire program the legislators were showing gross ignorance of the department's budget, a budget which the Ways and Means Committee of the Legislature thoroughly examined before it was approved by the Legislature.

AT THE time the budget for the state Department of Health was approved by the Legislature, Dr. Harold Erickson, predecessor to Dr. Wilcox, complained, and with good reason, that it was inadequate. Now, members of the Legislature who sit on the Emergency Board are saying that the budget has so much fat in it that \$32,000 can be found without crippling any services.

If this is so the Legislature did a very poor job when it prepared the budget for the Department of Health. And so did the Legislators who approved it.

Legislative irresponsibility is strong criticism. But not strong enough. This performance, from beginning to end, deserves much harsher criticism.—Pendleton East-Oregonian.

Piggyback Power Due in Wallowa

Salem — (UP) — "Piggyback" power will be a sure thing in Wallowa county soon and do it yourself power is on the way out.

Public Utility Commissioner J. H. Hill said today that Inana valley ranchers will receive their first central station electric power service in about May 18.

"Piggyback power is 'wholly unique,' according to Hill, and expensive. But it will be cheaper than stepping down

Dennis the Menace



"Hi, Mister Wilson! You sure look LONESOME UP THERE ALL BY YOURSELF!"

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 a view to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words. The letters printed in this column do not necessarily represent the views of the paper; in fact the contrary is often the case.

A WORD OF EXPLANATION

Editor's note: The volume of communications, or "letters to the editor," has been far above average in recent weeks, as a glance at the column will attest. Every effort is made to print all those letters which comply with our simple requirements, printed in the "box" above. But letters which are difficult to read must be deciphered and typed before they go to the printer, and this sometimes results in a delay of several days. No unsigned letters will be considered for publication. Occasionally, one will be printed without signature, and identification kept "on file," but only when the editor considers the reasons the writer does not want to be identified to be sufficient. No letters will be printed without names and addresses which cast aspersions on other individuals, or, generally, on organizations. Letters in excess of the 400 word limit will either be returned for condensation, or will be cut down in length by the editorial staff. No letter which, in the opinion of the editor, is vulgar, personally insulting, or in bad taste, will be printed. With these criteria understood, letters to the editor on subjects of public interest are more than welcome.

Stevenson and Morse

To the Editor: Political experts recognize the importance of the presidential primary election in the state of Oregon.

This state can play a key role in the Democratic convention by sending delegates pledged to Senator Morse. The end result could be a ticket of Stevenson and Morse, one hard to beat.

David Frisch
P.O. Box 202
White City, Ore.

Tom Paine Cited

To the Editor: I wish to thank you for my letter you published a few days ago to which Mr. Beverly made a reply. I will not reply to his letter in detail as I consider the Bible an unreliable source of proof, and I will refer him not exactly as an answer to his article, but furnish him with some enlightening facts in regard to a man who was a sort of an atheist, although a Deist, but was a martyr to all humanity. No man deserves more credit for this country becoming the United States, and although ignored by the clergy and our own government, it was no other than the right honorable Thomas Paine, the atheist. There are several books he published, among them the "Age of Reason" will give you light on his works and worth as a man, and religion, too, if one wants to look at it from that standpoint.

J. P. Wirth
Convalescent Home
120 Laurel St.
Medford

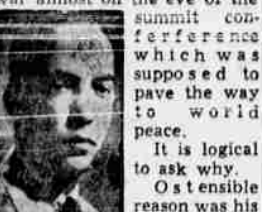
Box Scores and Sports

To the Editor: Permit me to add my plea that you may find it possible to print the box scores of the two major league games, at least. Radio and television give the sport fans a good service on final scores, but many fans like to follow the individual players and to those of us who do, box scores are important.

Unfortunately in this area the metropolitan dailies are not of much help, as their country editions come off the press too early to report the

Khrushchev's Revival of Cold War Poses Questions; Diversion of Attention Seen

By PHIL NEWSON
UPI Foreign Editor



Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev has revived the cold war almost on the eve of the summit conference which was supposed to pave the way to world peace.

It is logical to ask why. Ostensible reason was his charge before the Supreme Soviet (parliament) that the United States had sent a reconnaissance plane over Russia on a spy mission. He said a Russian ground-to-air rocket brought the plane down and that the pilot, who lived, now may be brought to trial.

Presumably it would be a show trial.

Khrushchev quickly linked the incident of the unarmed plane to a theoretical case in which a plane might carry a hydrogen bomb. The United States, he said, might logically expect one in its return.

Recalls Stalin's Day

This is talk as tough as any of the old cold war days of the late Soviet Premier Josef Stalin.

While the State Department said there was no Washington authorization for such flights, it did admit the plane was on

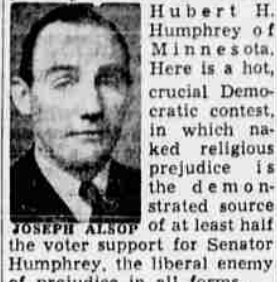
an intelligence-gathering flight over the Soviet Union.

Incidents of similar nature, occurring on both sides of the Iron Curtain, are not particularly new. Spy charges, one against the other, are not new either.

But of this case, Khrushchev made a particular issue

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop



THE CASE OF HUBERT HUMPHREY

Charleston, W. Va. — The mystery of this West Virginia primary is the role of Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota. Here is a hot, crucial Democratic contest, in which naked religious prejudice is the demonstrated source of at least half the voter support for Senator Humphrey, the liberal enemy of prejudice in all forms.

Sen. Humphrey has not made the smallest appeal to prejudice. Yet he has waged a fairly unpleasant campaign, rich with admittedly unsubstantiated hints of misdeeds by Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts (which the Kennedy campaigner, Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr., has now balanced with an unauthorized reference to the Humphrey war record). And Humphrey has also accepted the backing of such fairly unpleasant types as Jimmy Hoffa's local Teamsters and the ex-Ku Klux Klansman, Sen. Robert C. Byrd.

phrey himself told this reporter, and a good many other reporters too, that the Wisconsin primary was going to be his supreme test. If his vote in Wisconsin was not greater than Kennedy's, or at least equal to Kennedy's, so he said, he would withdraw from the pre-convention contest there and then. In January, he went even further in a long talk with the British Labor Party leader, Hugh Gaitskell. Even if he won in Wisconsin, he told Gaitskell, he did not hope for more than a couple of hundred delegates. His real aim, he explained, was to be a "factor" at the Democratic Convention; he added that he thought that his delegates would "probably" go to Sen. Kennedy in the end.

... .

AFTER Humphrey lost in Wisconsin by a heavy majority, warm friends and supporters of his, among them Walter Reuther, sent him messages urging him to stick to his original plan. They also warned him that West Virginia would prove to be a hornet's nest. Yet he plunged onward. Why did he do so? If he had won in Wisconsin, however narrowly, he would certainly have been justified in thinking of himself as a serious candidate, still very much in the ring. But after losing in his backyard, why go on without useful purpose?

The answer must be a special bacterium in the soil of Wisconsin. In every way one can think of, Humphrey is a better man than Minnesota's other recent presidential aspirant, Harold Stassen. Yet presidential campaigning has affected the warm-hearted Humphrey almost as it affected the cold-hearted Stassen. The main symptom has been a marked loss of touch with practical reality.

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what would happen if the farm soil bank and other supports were lifted?

And how would he solve the Bering Sea fishing problem? Would he allow the large fleets from foreign countries to freeze out, one by one, the American free enterprise fishermen? Would he practically give away the fishing industry to foreign countries because he's opposed to a federal plan of action?

It is inconceivable that a man who is opposed to so many humanitarian and progressive reforms (good or imperfect), could ever be elected to a public office. However, the apparent code and belief of this man does constitute a policy. It's a policy that is so old it might be classified as radically new to the younger voters, and one that could take root and spread among certain groups, who vote before they think.

Would appreciate further clarification of Mr. Fleming's speech; and if he can answer any of the questions I have asked here or can offer any alternatives for his various positions; am quite sure that a very large number of voters would like to hear of it.

Warren E. Wood,
P.O. Box 102,
Shady Cove, Ore.

Recreation School Set in Gold Hill

Gold Hill — A "recreation school" workshop for adults will be held at the Gold Hill Grange hall at 8 o'clock tonight, according to Mrs. A. A. Walker, Grange lecturer.

She said the session will serve as a refresher on drills, marches and games that were given at a recreation school by Oregon State college and the Jackson county extension service in Medford several weeks ago.

County Road Work Includes Bridges

One of the major county road projects now under way is grading and realignment of the North River rd., west of Rogue River, according to County Engineer Bob Carstensen.

County road crews are straightening the road, and plan to gravel it in preparation for surfacing at a later date, he said.

The bridge over Evans creek on the Antioch rd. is half completed, Carstensen added.

The bridge over Bitterlick creek on the Elk Creek rd. is about 25 per cent complete, the county engineer reported. The Highway 37 bridge over Emigrant creek on the Dead Indian rd. is completed, but fills to the bridge approaches have to be made. This will be completed in the near future and the bridge will be open for traffic by this summer, he said. All three bridges are of reinforced concrete.

Singapore — (UP) — Kidnaped millionaire Ong Chen Gsiang, 44, has been released, reportedly for a sizable ransom. It was disclosed today. He was thrown out of a car on a rural road here Friday night, but his family kept the information secret until Ong recovered from nearly nine days as a bound and gagged captive.

High Power Bills

To the Editor: We have been in the city of Medford for 10 months. Since then I have received the highest power bills of anywhere we have lived in the state of Oregon. Not only are the rates higher, but our K.W.H. are several hundred more than we have ever used before, and elsewhere we have had water pumps and more appliances.

I have gone to the company and they have tried to prove that we are using all this power. However my appliances, repair services, and companies that sell my makes of appliances say that they can't use as much K.W.H. as the power company meters say they do.

My bills are \$27 a month and no heat of any kind is used. It's awfully hard to pay such high power bills, and now I see where the company wants to raise their rates even higher.

Are we the people just going to sit still and pay our high bills, or are we going to do something about it?

I myself haven't found one person in their office who will listen to reason and try to be cooperative. They just say that I am a bother and cost the company a lot of unnecessary expense. They know that we have to buy their power when we already have electrical appliances, so they know that we will keep on paying whatever they wish to charge us. If we don't pay they turn off the power.

I know that there are plenty of other people who feel the way I do. I hope that they will feel free to write the editor too.

Mrs. E. J. Burleigh
2888 Howard ave.
Medford

THE victory will not be demonstrated, so to say, because Sen. Humphrey has repeatedly deplored religious prejudice, and with undoubted sincerity. As the beneficiary of prejudice—even as an unwilling beneficiary—he will become less acceptable than before to the Democratic leaders of the big states. The big-state leaders never liked him much anyway, and they have large Catholic votes to worry about. He may even suffer in his own Minnesota, where Catholics constitute at least half of the normal Democratic vote. Logically, this is unfair. But politics is a trade in which the hard realities are often unfair.

The Humphrey mystery may therefore be summed up in the question: "Why on earth is Humphrey doing this act here, with almost no hope of gain and considerable risk of loss?" The mystery is all the way I do. I hope that they will feel free to write the editor too.

Mrs. E. J. Burleigh
2888 Howard ave.
Medford

What's His Plan?

To the Editor: Upon listening to the recent television political speech by Leslie P. Fleming, I was somewhat surprised and amazed to know that there was an active politician still among us, running on such an ancient and obsolete platform. Or should I say "lack of platform?"

I noted from the speech that he referred to the Veterans' Administration as being "a public charity." However, nowhere in the speech did he offer an alternative, a reform, or shakeup in the ranks, or any plan of operation. From this we can only conclude that he would sell those disabled veterans to the wolves after they had preserved democracy and made conditions prosperous for Mr. Leslie P. Fleming, and others.

Does not Mr. Fleming realize that France had a very hard time raising an army in World War II, for reasons of either total or partial neglect of the disabled veterans from World War I? Can he explain

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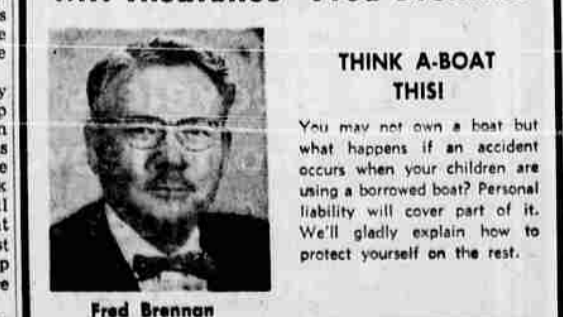
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