

How Are the Schools Doing?

How is Oregon education doing — qualitatively — in comparison to the rest of the nation?

Pretty well, apparently. The current issue of Oregon Education, the magazine of the Oregon Education Association, reports on a study made by Dr. Keith Goldhammer of the University of Oregon's bureau of educational research (who is well known here for the help he has given the Medford School district in testing and planning).

Dr. Goldhammer set out to compare the achievement of Oregon students with those of the whole nation. THE studies were based on a battery of achievement tests given to sixth, eighth and eleventh graders. The tests showed Oregon students' averages had "marked superiority" in achievement, over national averages.

It also revealed a "highly significant gain" in Oregon student, and thus educational, achievement, since 1950.

The article says: "Oregon test scores topped the national averages in every instance! In some cases superiority equaled a full year above national norms for sixth and eighth graders, and ranged downward to as low as one-fourth of a year."

SOME 6,000 Oregon students from 47 different school districts participated in the tests, and they were spread broadly over the state, so the test results can be assumed to be fairly representative.

Another objective of the study was to determine the relative excellence of students in large and small districts. This comparison yielded no definite results (except that students in third class districts rated less well than those in first, union high, and second class districts).

Excellence in big or small districts apparently was the result of factors other than size, Dr. Goldhammer's report indicated.

ALL in all, the study indicates that Oregonians can take pride in their educational system, as it compares with that of the nation as a whole. One caution is in order, though: Pride should not lead to complacency. Improvement of education and its techniques and methods must be a continuing thing, deserving of public support, if we are not to short-change the rising generations.

City Election--A Formality As this is written, it appears fairly certain that there will be no competition for any of the city offices open for election this year, and that the election itself will be a mere formality.

It is too bad that there is so little interest in city government that it attracts only a few people to seek election. Not that we feel the present administration has done poorly. Quite to the contrary. We believe that Mayor Snider's administration has been marked by some of the most progressive moves in many years of city operation.

NOR HAVE we any major complaints about the way the council has operated during the past few years. There have been some arguments, some decisions which may have seemed questionable in retrospect, and some with which we have flatly disagreed on principle.

But we also believe that all these decisions were made in good faith, by men who work hard, and for nothing tangible in return, for the benefit of their city. And with this we cannot quarrel, even when disagreeing over details.

HOWEVER, it is an obvious fact that there are people in the city, residents and voters, who do not approve of the present administration, who have been critical of many council decisions, who think that some members of the professional city staff aren't doing their jobs as they should.

But, without an election contest, there is no way of knowing how strong this sentiment is. One assumes that, lacking opponents in the election, members of the present administration and council meet with the overwhelming approval of the electorate. (Maybe that's put too positively. Perhaps it would be more accurate to say that the overwhelming majority of the electorate find nothing seriously wrong with the administration.)

But there's no way to find out, conclusively. IT IS EASY enough to become a candidate for city office. All that is necessary is a nominating petition signed by 25 voters. And anyone who can't find 25 people willing to back him up has no business running for office in the first place.

Lacking even that degree of interest, the city now will operate for another two years with the same policy-makers (with one exception) which have been responsible for its operation for the past two.

In our mind this is all to the good, for, as stated, we believe the job has been a superior one. But it doesn't provide any means of tangible expression for those who may disagree.

Dennis the Menace



How do you know all I got in my piggy bank is slugs?

Final Verdict on Shift-Tail Session Of Congress Up To Voters November 8

By LYLE C. WILSON

Washington—UPI—The last, conclusive and definite word on the shift-tail session of Congress just ended will be had by the voters Nov. 8.

This is a fact, the pundits and the politicians notwithstanding. There is dispute and some doubt about who was responsible for what during the brief post-convention political ruckus on Capitol Hill.

There is neither dispute nor doubt, however, about who was responsible for bringing Congress back to Washington after the major parties had nominated their presidential tickets. Those responsible were Speaker Sam Rayburn and Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson, both of Texas.

It could be, of course, that voter satisfaction or disgust with the August session of Congress will determine the presidential winner in November.

Impact of Ambition If so, the significance of Johnson's Democratic nomination for vice president simply will be re-emphasized. Johnson's politics, personality and ambitions have had already enormous impact on the convention procedure of both parties and on the campaign to date. No vice presidential nominee in modern U.S. political history can be compared with Johnson in that respect, unless it be Theodore Roosevelt when he was nominated to run with McKinley.

Roosevelt's impact on American politics was more potential than immediate, however, whereas Johnson's impact is present, effective, and real. The August session, of course, could not have taken place over Johnson's objections. United Press International reported when the decision was made: "The Johnson-Rayburn decision to postpone final action on some major labor-backed bills until after the conventions produced angry complaints from some Democrats who weren't willing to be quoted by name."

"They call it a maneuver by Johnson to bring pressure on labor leaders to support his bid for the Democratic presidential nomination. The protests came from Democrats who oppose Johnson's candidacy, one of whom said, 'If Johnson ever had a chance for the nomination—which I doubt—he has killed it now.'"

Platforms Affected If, indeed, the short session maneuver was intended to obtain the senator's nomination for president, it was a blank failure. A more positive and wholly demonstrable proof of Johnson's great impact on the conventions and the campaign is the Democratic platform. The Democratic platform, in turn, had some—perhaps much—effect on the Republican platform.

The ultra-liberal Democratic platform emerged in the form in which it did without the expected all-out effort by Southern delegates to moderate its language. Nor did Johnson make any notable moderate moves.

The most reasonable explanation of that is the certainty that Johnson's chance for top spot would have faded even before it actually did if he and/or his Southern friends had made a bare-knuckled attack on platform pledges written by the powerful left wing elements of the Democratic party.

To keep Johnson in the race the platform had to be accepted. It was, but that was not enough.

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.

Religion in Schools and Politics

To the Editor: A recent news letter of the U.N., published by the Republic of Korea, printed in Taipei, states: "We thank God for the folly of the man Khrushchev," he has failed to supersede God. Khrushchev's "unintentional services to the free world are remarkable; his threats and insults have united the free world against him."

Khrushchev and many uninformed statesmen fail to understand that by far the greater part of Western civilization, upon which the United States Constitution is based, is either Catholic or Greek Orthodox in religious belief. Only 13 per cent of the European continent is Protestant.

Catholic and Greek Orthodox have never compromised with communism, which is not an ideology but a godless criminal conspiracy against God and the Christian teaching of Western civilization.

"Knowledge is the treasure," said William Penn, "but judgment is the treasure of wise men. He who has more knowledge than judgment is made for another man's use, more than his own."

Our United States Congress has many men who have great knowledge and information, but a mere handful exercise "objective judgment." Too many used the "image" or "picture" technique of emotional-subjective appeal, which can only express "likes" and "dislikes."

Today 50 per cent of the voters of this nation have a high school education. Thanks to the Christian-objective teachings of the private religious high schools and colleges, who reject the progressive and false godless ideas of the late Professor John Dewey and his "liberal heresy" who deny the existence of absolute truth or its human attainability.

The National Educational Association are in "panic" at the 147 per cent increase of private religious school enrollment to an increase of only 42 per cent in public school enrollment, since 1950—just 10 years.

Parents who do not like to have their children in secular schools are told, in substance, "Check your religious beliefs with your rubbers in the cloakroom before you sit down in this study."

Many Democrats are saying: "We thank God for the folly" of Bishop James Albert Pike, Evangelist Billy Graham, Dr. Norman Vincent Peale.

Paul Harvey recently "wise cracked," that a "bigot" was a Catholic who refused to vote for Senator Kennedy, "because he did not go to Notre Dame."

Stephen E. Gillis White City, Ore.

Tactics Deployed To the Editor: In the August-September issue of "The Counselor" magazine the following article appeared: "The Union Pencil Co. of Yonkers, N.Y., conducted a direct mail campaign a few weeks ago which reaped a bumper harvest of adverse criticism from the direct mail advertising industry. Better Business Bureaus and firms which received the letters.

"Business firms in all parts of the country received a letter from Unipeco. From all indications, the number was well into the thousands. At first glance the letter appeared to be personally typewritten, but on closer inspection

it turned out to be a printed letter, with a processed signature. Name and address were typed on a matching typewriter. The dates were printed, ranged from May 31 to June 7. The earlier letters read: "Recently, we received an order for pencils from a firm similar in name to yours."

"In error, we pulled your name and address from our inactive file and ran an order of 576 printed wood pencils."

"Should you be able to use these pencils we will bill you at the price of .04 each and include a free Timex watch for your cooperation."

"We repeat this error was entirely ours and you are under no obligation to buy. However, if you wish us to ship the pencils, indicate your OK below and we will comply."

Very truly yours, (Miss) Helen Turner.

"P.S. The pencils are white and have your name and address in blue on 2 lines."

"Later this letter was changed slightly to offer 100 P.A.-1 pens at 29 cents each."

The Better Business Bureau of Philadelphia called its members' attention to the letter in a bulletin, asking "Is this company making a business of 'errors'?"

We deplore such tactics as this campaign. It is a deceptive, unethical, and a hoax, if not illegal.

Margaret Custer Dix 1846 Woodlawn Drive Medford.

"Poverty-Stricken Slaves"? To the Editor: There is something rotten in Denmark. There must be something wrong when the "richest nation in the world" pays a million dollars a day to store food to inflate prices, has a towering national debt with colossal interest yearly that staggers the imagination, billions given away in foreign aid, unemployment at home, and inflated prices.

And when a man or woman can get employment at seasonal work they are threatened with discharge by a high powered charity drive for the United Fund. It does not make sense.

Why do people that are tottering on the edge of pauperdom have to be threatened with insecurity to shoulder a national or state responsibility? Can anyone explain? Has anyone an answer? Where is this vaunted "freedom" mentioned by our president so often where placards glare at the workers from rest room walls implying that their jobs are not secure unless they respond favorably to a shake-down? Is that not taxation without representation? Is that "freedom"?

These seasonal workers are comparatively poorly paid and with many it is the only employment that they have during the whole year. Many of these women are past 70 and without adequate social security to sustain life. Why must they be badgered to support other unfortunates in the richest country in the world? It is a national disgrace! It is time we have done with such vain-glorious boasting of "riches" and "freedom" and call things by their true names. Would not "poverty-stricken slaves" be more appropriate?

Walter Reece Galice rd. Merlin, Ore.

Temperances and Facts To the Editor: Believe it or not, here is a short letter from me.

As I sense the increasing seriousness of the time in

which we live, as we note the political situation, I believe that we should watch to see that we ourselves do not get so stirred up that we lose our tempers.

Advocates of truth have the unchanging, eternal word of God to back them up. They should reveal this fact in not using rugged and sharp words. In the presentation of truthful facts one should manifest the meekness and gentleness of Christ. Let the truth do the cutting; the word of God is as sharp as a sharp, two edged sword, and will cut its way to the heart.

Those who feel they should the truth on matters, should not be the use of harsh, and severe expressions give the evil one a chance to misinterpret their spirit.

Yet we should not blind ourselves to the facts. All the logic and tradition of the world will not replace facts. We cannot rightfully ignore matters that pertain to our physical and spiritual welfare.

Henry Johnson Jr. 2400 Highway 66 Ashland, Ore.

Could She Be Wrong? To the Editor: I suggest that Sullen Drangen, 417 Lane St., Yreka, Calif., read her letter, published in the Mail Tribune on Sunday, Sept. 4, over carefully, and at the end of each paragraph, pause and ask herself this question: "Could I possibly be wrong?"

A Democrat or? Malemute Slim, White City, Ore.

Black Hole of Socialism To the Editor: I was very happy to read that E.A. has finally come out in a recent editorial, and admitted that he is either a socialist or at least a fellow traveler. Many of us have known this for some time, but up until his Aug. 30 editorial he has not admitted it.

"Socialism by definition is the public ownership of the means of production and distribution." For years E.A. has advocated that government is a useful instrument for the management of the public's business.

I cannot understand how anyone in his right mind could ever think that the founding fathers of this great country ever meant this government to manage the public's business. On the contrary they put every control that they could think of in the constitution to keep the government out of our private lives as much as possible.

F.D.R. started the breakdown of constitutional government in this country and his two followers have continued this breakdown. Our government is topheavy with bureaus and bureaucrats. How long can the taxpayer stand this waste?

Our public debt today is over \$300 billion, and the present budget director estimates that with future commitments it amounts to \$750 billion. Now let us be honest. If a private business had, percentage-wise, been run into debt at the same rate in the last 40 years would anyone be thinking of calling it an "unqualified success"?

What freedoms have we lost? In the name of the Good Lord, isn't it enough to lose the freedom to spend the fruits of our labors the way we think they should be spent? At the very least let us return to some sort of reason with taxes.

Before Social Security how many elderly people starved? As for accepting alms, is it a

crime? Is it bad? Evidently not. Our big brother government has given alms to almost every nation on earth.

I only hope that the people with enough back bone to speak up and stand on their own two feet, will start to reverse the trend of the welfare state before we come to the point of no return and completely fall into the black hole of Socialism. As Thomas Jefferson said, "If we can prevent the government from wasting the labor of the people under the pretense of caring for them, they will be happy."

Edwin A. Olsen, 190 Clover Lane Medford.

No Change of Heart To the Editor: Your vitriolic criticism in a recent editorial on the needless grounding of all commercial and private aircraft for a brief period during which the military would conduct their exercise "Sky-shield" seems harsh in light of the facts in the AP release carried by other papers. Surely UPI also carried a similar story and perhaps now that you have had an opportunity to read the releases you have had a change of heart.

Your editorial precipitated my own inquiry to the Department of the AF which was relayed to the North American Air Defense Command who satisfied me that this grounding of non-military aircraft was coordinated and approved by all agencies involved both in this country and in Canada to insure a realistic exercise and at the same time to assure safety in the air to passengers and crew.

Ray Lamberg 3619 Ross Lane Medford

Thornton Rules on Part-Time Attorneys Salem—UPI—Attorney Gen. Robert Y. Thornton said today that part-time attorneys for the state are prohibited by Oregon law from representing a private client in adoption proceedings before the state public welfare commission.

In citing the statute involved, Thornton said the lawyers concerned are special assistant attorneys general.

THE HORACE MANN Insurance Companies

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