

Medford Mail Tribune
"Everyone in Southern Oregon
Needs The Mail Tribune"
Published Daily except Saturday by
MEDFORD PUBLISHING CO.
33 North 1st St. Ph. SP 2-4141
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An Independent Newspaper
Entered as second class matter at
Medford, Oregon, under Act of
March 3, 1879.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
By Mail - In Advance, Copy 10c
Daily and Sunday - 1 year \$10.00
Daily and Sunday - 6 mos. 5.00
Daily and Sunday - 3 mos. 2.50
Sunday Only - One year \$4.50
By Carrier - In Advance - Medford
Ashland, Central Point, Eagle
Point, Jacksonville, Gold Hill,
Phoenix, Shady Cove, Rogue Riv-
er, Talent and on motor routes
Daily and Sunday - 1 year \$10.00
Daily and Sunday - 6 mos. 5.00
Daily and Sunday - 3 mos. 2.50
Carrier and others - copy 10c
All Terms Cash in Advance
Official Paper of City of Medford
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United Press International
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O.P.I. Telephone News Pictures
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WEST HOLIDAY CO., INC. Of-
fices in New York, Chicago, De-
troit, San Francisco, Los Angeles,
Seattle, Portland, St. Louis, At-
lanta, Vancouver, B.C.
NATIONAL EDITORIAL
ASSOCIATION
1960
ASSOCIATION
MEMBER

What Are The Issues?

Forest W. Amsden, executive editor and associate publisher of the Coos Bay World, made a speech last week in Eugene. It was about the election contest in the Fourth Congressional District.

It should be added that Amsden recently spent nearly a year in Washington on a congressional fellowship, during which he studied the working of Congress, and worked for several different congressmen.

His talk is, we believe, revealing. It is too long for reproduction here, but here is one significant portion of it:

"What are the vital issues here in the Fourth District of Oregon? And where do the candidates for Congress stand on them?"
"These are the basic issues, on which Charlie Porter is recorded positively 'for' and his opponent 'against,' even though he says 'Yes, but' to some of them:

"First an increased minimum wage law that will force Southern lumber operators to pay something nearer the wages we pay out here, to help ease the South's competitive advantage in many markets;
"Expanded Social Security benefits to give something nearer subsistence to our honorably retired people;

"A workable, self-financed program of old age health insurance, instead of a public dole and mental and physical misery in the shadowy valley of old age;
"Federal aid to education, to take some of the burdens off our property and raise the standards of education in the most critical area of our history;

"Housing legislation that will, first, assist rather than hinder those who want to own their own homes and buy them with their own money, but can't because the economy is being steadily stacked against them, and second, improve the deplorable state of our timber economy in Southwestern Oregon;

"And so on and so on and so on, down the long, long list of critical national and local needs we must, as Americans, face if we, instead of the Communists, are to be the model for the world to follow."

THERE was more — quite a bit more — citing Porter's record on the issues of the day, which are of crucial importance to all the people in Southwestern Oregon.

And Amsden concluded:

"These are the issues. These are the vital matters on which you will be voting Nov. 8. Get out and discuss them. Make sure these real issues are not obscured by the sea of mushy accusations we are getting from Charlie Porter's opponents.
"We must re-elect Charles O. Porter, a man of intelligence, of sense, of sensibility, and most of all, of conscience. We will do it, too."

Amsden knows what he's talking about. Whether the quasi-smears, innuendoes, and vague generalities being used to combat Porter will be effective we won't know until next Tuesday evening.

But if right is right, truth is truth, and honesty is honesty, Porter deserves re-election by a whopping majority.

He has been a positive, vigorous, imaginative and hard-working Congressman. We should keep him on the job. — E. A.

The Old Plywood Bit

One of the half-truths being used in an attempt to defeat Congressman Porter has been the hoary old story about Japanese plywood.

It was used in the election of two years ago, without success, and is being used again this time.

The story is, first, that the plywood industry is in trouble, second that imports of Japanese plywood have increased, so, three, Porter is personally responsible for the difficulties of the plywood industry.

What hogwash!

IN these attempts, Porter's detractors never tell you two facts:

1. Japanese plywood is 99 per cent HARDWOOD, mostly used on finished interiors, while Oregon plywood is more than 99 per cent SOFTWOOD, mostly used for structural purposes, and that the two don't compete seriously, either in use or in price (the Japanese plywood now pays a 20 per cent duty), and

2. That much of the Japanese hardwood plywood comes here in the form of raw veneer, is laid up with Oregon softwoods in Oregon plants, and furnishes work for Oregon payrolls.

No, they don't point out these facts, because all they're interested in is getting at Porter — any old way they can.

THE plywood slump is not due to Japanese hardwood; it is due to the scarcity of mortgage money, at bearable interest rates, not only here but throughout the nation.

And yet, Porter has retained an open mind on the plywood matter, and if it CAN be shown that Japanese imports do, or might, harm Oregon industry, where hardwood plywood has grown in recent years, he would call for action to protect it. He said recently:

"Twice the Tariff Commission has been asked by the hardwood plywood people to curtail imports of Japanese hardwood plywood imports. Twice the commission has found no serious injury to the domestic plywood industry and it found no serious threat of injury indicated."

And he added:

"No Oregon hardwood plywood producer has in recent months asked the Tariff Commission for protection. I have sent telegrams to all producers, but none has asked for protection yet."

"Hardwood plywood, like softwood plywood and lumber, is in a slump because new housing starts for September, 1960, are down 28 per cent from September of last year. We're not building the houses because of Republican high-interest tight-money policies, and three Presidential vetoes of housing bills."

So much for the old plywood story. — E. A.

Dennis the Menace



GEE! LUCKY IT DOESN'T BELONG TO NOBODY YET!

Washington Report

By WILLIAM S. WHITE

THE TWO ISSUES
Washington — Beneath all the sound and fury, the marching and counter-marching of party captains and party kings, the true issues in this presidential campaign can be counted on the fingers of half a hand.

But they are basic issues — and valid in that they appeal to men's minds and not to their mere emotions — between Democratic Candidate John Kennedy and Republican Candidate Richard Nixon.

And they are disagreements so meaningful as to justify the endless speeches and paper storms of written statements, now falling in torrents in the last spasms of party effort before election day.

This column is intended to describe these issues calmly and without prejudice as they are in reality — and not as they sound in the heavy, melodramatic rhetoric of the autumn struggle now drawing to its end.

ACTUALLY, dividing Mr. Nixon and Mr. Kennedy are two points:

1. A complicated argument not really about the substance of our foreign policy, present or future, but about the posture of the United States within the enduring framework of that policy. Either man as president would act about the same way on any big problem you could name — the Western alliance, the defense of Berlin, even the off-shore Chinese islands.

2. A far less discussed divergence over how to manage the home economy — most specifically over how much and for what reasons the government should intervene in the people's economic affairs.

Point 1 has revolved around "prestige." This is a pity, for it is a loose, a somewhat pompous and goody-goody term in no way suggesting what either candidate actually means. What they have really been talking about is not national "prestige," which is a quality almost as elusive as, say, the quality of "glamour."

WHAT they have really been talking about is national power — naked power, a term from whose honest ugliness the candidates themselves, along with most other people, tend to shrink.

What Kennedy really means is that he believes this country's true power — not just its

Change is Disappointing
To the Editor: When Dr. Durno first started his campaign I thought he would keep it on the high level one would expect from a man of his profession.

It has been disappointing to see how he has changed. Even if he disagrees with his opponent he doesn't have to suggest the man is disloyal. He has served in the State Senate and should be above such tactics.

He knows Charles Porter is loyal to this country; by hinting otherwise he has proved to me that he is not the man to elect to Congress.

My vote will go to Charles Porter.
C. W. Timmons,
1568 Holman rd.,
Ashland, Ore.

I earnestly hope Oregon will again return Charles Porter to Congress, to carry on as one of the Nation's most energetic and resourceful leaders for peace.

Neal Proctor
6801 Brookville rd.
Chevy Chase 15, Md.

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

VITTORIO DESICA is not only Italy's great matinee idol and film director, but an accomplished linguist. He speaks English and French as eloquently as he does Italian, and can rattle off a polite phrase in German and Spanish with facility, too.

"English is absolutely required," he explains, "for discussing contracts. I need French to make time with a beautiful girl. As for Italian—that need most of these days when I cut myself shaving."

An anthology entitled "Letters to Sons and Daughters" contains this particularly touching note from Robert G. Ingersoll to his daughter on the occasion of her thirty-fourth birthday:

"Dear Eva: Thirty-four years of unbroken kindness, of cloudless sunshine, of perpetual joy, of constant love! Thirty-four years of happy smiles, of loving looks, of gentle words, of generous deeds! My love to one who has grown from a faultless child to be a perfect woman, wife, and mother."

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Cuban Dissatisfaction With Castro Seen Up, But There's Little Chance He'll Fall

By LYLE C. WILSON

Washington (UPI) — An American intelligence estimate of the political situation in Cuba makes some points with which U. S. citizens should be familiar. Such as:

Dissatisfaction with Cuban government policies has decreased very much the popularity of Fidel Castro, perhaps reduced it by half or more.

Castro's support is mainly among the "chusma," the rabble. These lower class Cubans have been most affected by Castro's endless anti-United States propaganda.

Upper and middle class Cubans in great numbers have renounced their allegiance to Castro in protest against Communist domination of his government.

Publicized defections of a great many of Castro's early revolutionary associates have had a useful propaganda value against his regime. The net result, however, has been to strengthen Castro. As the

anti-Communists defected, Communists and Communist sympathizers moved into their places of power and influence.

This intelligence report suggests that Castro's administration, thus bolstered by hard core Communists, is in a strong political position despite shrinkage of popular support.

It adds up to this: The Castro regime will not fold easily, if at all. Castro and his associates would not run away in the face of defeat as did Dictator Fulgencio Batista, whom Castro ousted.

"The present group in con-

trol of Cuba," the report said, "has no thought of giving up power without a definite fight to the end."

"To obliterate this Communist satellite, strong measures would be necessary. The Cuban people, by themselves, will not be able to accomplish this task."

"The work of various counter-revolutionary groups would have to be coordinated and they would have to obtain excellent military equipment."

"In the propaganda field, further efforts are needed not only to influence the thinking of the leaders of other Latin American countries but also to influence the thinking of the people who live in those countries."

"The basic bad news for the United States in this report is the estimate that among the countries of Latin America, Castro enjoys most sympathy among the leaders of Mexico."

Awaiting the next president of the United States are some tough questions demanding early answers. One of them is: "What to do about Castro?"

Part of that question is another, equally urgent. It is this: "How shall the United States hold, against Castro's blandishments, the sympathy and friendship of the Republic of Mexico?"

that people will actually drink less beer, and less soft drinks, all because of a lack of billboards. Also that the travelers will stay at fewer motels.

Who do these oppositionists think they are trying to fool? As for the motels, quite the contrary is probably true. A traveler, when confronted with mile after mile of signs, will often just drive a little faster to get away from this clutter and will soon find himself in another state before he runs out of billboards.

As for hardships involved, namely Sardine Creek, the businesses involved here are classified as Oregon landmarks and have the right to guiding signs. Other, off the highway businesses, not so classified, can be advertised at designated information sites, with complete coverage, as provided by the measure.

It is understood that a few members of craft unions, who have struggled through a seven-year period of three recessions, and who are now worried about future employment, will be in opposition. To this group I would say that Billboards is not the solution to their problems. Their answer lies more in legislation for practical human needs.

We should take pride in our agricultural resources, the unsurpassed scenery and our gigantic hydroelectric power potential, and should not convey the impression to "Out of Staters" that we are only boosters for nationally advertised products.

As for loss of human rights: What a laugh! It is as much one man's right to be able to see the horizon as it is another man's right to blind him from this vision.

Let's all vote "yes" on ballot No. 15.

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

Brand the Maverick
To the Editor: By this date most churches in Medford and vicinity know we have a new radio broadcasting station in the valley, a Christian radio station, and you know, we have failed to hear any Rogue Valley church voices over it. We have been hoping for this — to hear Christ lifted up — and an invitation to your church services.

There are many people who would appreciate such a missionary effort, and they might accept the invitation.

The writer — yours truly — lived for several months in a small city, lonesome and discouraged, and no one asked me to church, (I eventually a couple of Salvation Army inmates called on their tag day — and invited us to church. We accepted and you don't know how we appreciated that kindly act. There are many folks just like that in Medford and the valley, Mavericks, and they could be branded and claimed.

Mrs. Mary Morgan,
618 East Ninth st.,
Medford

No Billboards
To the Editor: When you see the deliberate distortions of the 10 wealthy billboard giants regarding Oregon jobs, think of these words:

There once was a tourist from Iowa,
Who traveled on Oregon's highway.
He saw naught but signs
When he longed for green pines,
So he bought his next home in Hawaii!

Vote 15 YES, we want no billboards.

Mrs. Eunice C. Brandt,
Route 1, Box 786,
Salem, Ore.

Half Truths and Lies
To the Editor: Having heard from those who are opposed to the billboard measure, I feel impelled to defend the measure. We hear such expressions as "Don't be misled," "It's unfair," etc.

They will mix only partial truths with just plain cold lies, and label them as facts. They are trying to tell us

Jim Sellick
Lithia Drive-In Theatre
Ashland, Ore.

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What Kind of Representation?
To the Editor: I have just read the statement of John Gregory, candidate for state representative from Jackson