

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE
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Legislative Expenses

The Oregon Constitution, in setting forth the pay to be received by members of the legislature, also allows them 10 cents per mile en route to and from the legislature (one time only) on the most usual route, "and no other personal expenses."

How, in view of this, can the legislature vote, as it did last week, to allow members up to \$75 per month for expenses while in session, and up to \$150 per month between sessions?

Ex-Gov. Charles A. Sprague, in his Oregon Statesman column, says:

"How these legislators expect such a resolution to square with the constitution they had just sworn to uphold is beyond me."

THE crux of the matter is that the Constitution prohibits payments for "personal" expenses, while the resolution passed last week provides for "legislative" expenses.

Is there a real difference? Is the resolution just juggling with semantics?

We won't know until there is an authoritative ruling on the matter—either by the Secretary of State, or, if he disallows such expense vouchers, by the Supreme Court.

THE question is doubly touchy because of the fact that just last November the people voted down an increase in legislators' pay. And one could argue, as some members did, that this, coupled with the express constitutional ban on personal expense payments, puts this resolution beyond the pale of, if not legality, at least responsibility and moral obligation.

We cannot agree, however. We do not believe the people of the state would really expect legislators to spend their own money on expenses which are, in fact, legislative expenses, if given a chance to decide (which they have not had).

Such expenses include things like telephone and telegraph charges, office space rental, office expenses, postage, office supplies, stationery and reference materials, stenographic assistance, and so on—none of which would be incurred if the individual were not working for the benefit of the state.

IT WOULD appear that there is a substantial difference between these legislative expenses, and personal expenses, such as meals, lodging, incidentals, and others.

And we therefore believe that the legislature is well within its rights, both legal and moral, in drawing such a line, and undertaking to pay for legislative expenses.

There are safeguards, also. The expenses must be itemized and certified, and must be approved by the presiding officer of the house of which the legislator is a member.

Why \$75 when in session and \$150 when not in session? The members have a number of services and supplies available during the session—secretaries, stationery, limited postage, reference materials, and so on—which are not available between sessions.

The amounts involved are not substantial, but certainly they should do a great deal to ease the considerable financial burden which serving in the legislature has come to be.

AN INCREASE in pay for legislators undoubtedly will come up again for a vote of the people.

But in the interim, we feel that the payment of legitimate and necessary legislative expenses will broaden a bit the number of good people who are of legislative caliber, and perhaps make it possible for experienced men to seek to return to the job.

The move is of benefit to the state, and should not be begrudged.—E. A.

23rd Amendment

We urge the Oregon legislature to ratify the 23rd amendment.

Before some of our more volatile readers have conceptions, we hasten to explain that it isn't THAT 23rd amendment we have in mind—it is a proposal which has a far greater chance of being adopted.

(One proposed "23rd" would end the income tax and cut down the federal government by about 70 per cent; the other would permit voters of the District of Columbia to cast ballots for President and Vice President. The second is the subject today.)

Governor Hatfield supports the ratification of this amendment, and said so, with good effect, in his message to the legislature.

HE said: "Another matter of constitutional concern is that of prompt approval of the 23rd Amendment to the U. S. Constitution. In the November election Oregonians supported the idea that people within our borders should not be disfranchised in presidential elections because they could not meet the residence requirements. It is only fitting that in this same spirit the franchise should be extended to residents of the District of Columbia."

Oregon is one of 44 of the 50 states where legislatures meet this year, and as soon as 34 of them ratify the Amendment, it will become effective.

One hopes this will be soon—simply as a matter of democratic rights and justice to the 600,000 or so citizens of the capital who now have no say about who will be President.—E. A.

Dennis the Menace



"HOW FIRM CAN I GET WITHOUT ACTUALLY BELTING HIM ONE?"

Matter of Fact

CONGRESSIONAL AUGURIES

Washington - This week's big event in Congress was simple enough. Sen. Mike Mansfield of Montana successfully passed his first test as Majority Leader, when the Senate sent the whole problem of changes in the Senate rules back to the Rules Committee.

For the student of Congress, the fight over the rules was an interesting affair. To begin with, the apple of discord was hurled by Vice President Nixon. In order to open the way for a rules fight, Nixon used his power as presiding officer to condemn as "unconstitutional" the Senate's previous vote that its existing rules survived from session to session.

Having placed the Senate under the unaccustomed guidance of Robert's "Rules of Order" and Thomas Jefferson's "Manual," the Vice President vanished from the scene. Senate Minority Leader Everett Dirksen then hastened to extract a Republican advantage from the situation that Nixon had created. He smoothly offered Sen. Richard Russell of Georgia conservative Republican help in the Southern fight against any radical change in the Senate rules which Nixon had declared void.

THE grumbles only mean that President-elect Kennedy's Congressional liaison is not yet in good working order. The re-emergence of the Republican conservative-Southern coalition only means that Kennedy is going to have to make a special effort to secure Southern support. But the quality of a ten-times-told tale which tinctures the whole Congressional situation is genuinely ominous.

The point is that the present Congressional atmosphere of business-as-usual, slogan-as-usual, squabbles-as-usual, and grumbles-as-usual, is by no means an atmosphere that lends itself to bold, emergency action. Yet the military crises in Laos and the Congo, the defense position, the general drift of world events, all combine to call for bold and probably painful action.

This Kennedy's primary problem, from the very moment that he takes the oath, will be to create a climate of action. He can only do so, beyond doubt, by bringing the country up short with a sharp warning of the exceptionally grave national situation, which most people have hardly noticed. If the country changes, Congress will also change.

This was what the Senate voted to do on Wednesday, by a majority of 90 to 46. As anyone who studies the roll call can see, the final effect of the wordy struggle was to re-create, at least for the time being, the old Republican conservative-Southern coalition.

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

TWO SCOTCHMEN, sauntering along a beach at low tide, spotted an oyster simultaneously. Both grabbed for it and claimed it, and the dispute became so hot they decided to leave the decision to a third man on the beach.

He suggested that each claimant tell his story, and while they were orating, he opened the shell, extracted the oyster, with a grunt of satisfaction, then handed each of them a shell.

"The Court," he declared, "awards you each a shell. The oyster will cover the costs."

It took a snail exactly four years to reach a road. Just as it reached the bank, a tree crashed to the ground, missing it by a scant six inches. "You see," observed the snail, "if I had been here 1 year six months ago that tree would have killed me. It pays to move fast."

Today & Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

THE FRENCH DECISION

The referendum on Algeria is, it seems to me, more decisive than the gross figures seem to show. Thus, it is true that if we count the abstainers as having voted no, then Gen. de Gaulle received 56 per cent of the vote in France itself and only 39 per cent in Algeria.

But these figures do not tell correctly the story of what happened. What was the issue on which all these votes were cast? It was whether Gen. de Gaulle should have a mandate to make an Algerian settlement on the basis, if necessary, of independence for Algeria. On this issue France itself voted overwhelmingly in favor of de Gaulle's mandate to make an Algerian peace.

Only about 18 per cent of the registered voters sought to deny him the mandate. But who were they? They were the Rightists who want to retain Algeria as a part of France and they were the Communists, who while they do not care about Algeria, are opposed for other reasons to de Gaulle.

Most of the non-voters, moreover, are to be counted as silent assenters to de Gaulle's policies, for in France the politically passive are, for the most part, willing to go along with his leadership.

WE MAY conclude that France itself, metropolitan France, has now said decisively that it wants peace, that it does not support any longer the resistance of the Europeans in Algeria, and that, while it hopes for an association with Algeria, it is prepared to accept an independent Algeria. This is a decisive result.

The voting in Algeria itself was much less significant. The Europeans voted no, as of course they would. The Moslems abstained in the cities, following the instructions of the rebel leaders, and in the country they voted when the French Army took them to the polls.

One cannot take these votes seriously. What the voting does show is that the Europeans are a small minority, no longer supported politically by their compatriots in France, and that the Moslems will follow the leaders of the rebellion.

THE practical conclusions to be drawn from all this are, it seems to me, these. First, an Algerian peace will have to be negotiated with the Algerians who have waged the war. It cannot be negotiated with anyone else.

Second, the European minority, which is to lose its political privileges, will now be in jeopardy of losing everything under the pressure of the huge Moslem majority. In withdrawing their support of the European settlers, the people of metropolitan France have assumed the obligation of protecting the lives of the settlers and of indemnifying them for the possible loss of their property. This is, I understand, thoroughly understood at the highest levels in France, and may carry with it an offer to repatriate to metropolitan France those who wish to leave a Moslem Algeria.

By this referendum Gen. de Gaulle has won a vote of confidence in himself, he has won a mandate to proceed to the surgical operation which

POTLUCK

(By M-T Staff and Contributors)

If you were one of the lucky few who saw a news staff member walking slowly down the middle of Fir street late one evening last week, carefully rolling up a ball of knitting yarn, this is to inform you that he was cold stone sober.

His wife had dropped him at the office for a moment, drove to a store to buy a loaf of bread, and en route accidentally and unknowingly dropped a ball of yarn out the car door. It unrolled, and she drove around with about 150 feet of yarn trailing in the breeze behind the car.

When she stopped for her husband, he discovered the yarn, traced it to its end a half-block away, and carefully rolled it up for her, walking as he rolled.

The yarn was undamaged, we're happy to report, and now is part of a young lady's sweater. One of the few formal sweaters in town, we'll wager, which can boast of having been dragged around the streets of Medford.

One of the better definitions of an old-timer is a person who can remember when he used to wish that someday his gross income would be as large as his grocery bill actually is today.

A home nursing class at a local high school was discussing the care of infants the other day, and the teacher asked the class to define colic in a baby.

"Gosh," said one member, "I didn't think they even had enough hair for a cowlick at that age."

Have you noticed the rose bushes on sale at some stores? Can spring be far away?

Not long ago we were honored (?) by being placed on the mailing list of the new tourist promotion department of the State of Alaska.

We are sorry to have to report, as a result, that the Alaskan flacks are just as bad as some others. Oh, some of the stuff is fine, all right, telling about dog races, glaciers, and other attractions of the 49th (and biggest) state.

But the most recent release smacked of the calculated lames coming from the vicinity of Loch Ness, Scotland, about sea monsters, and out of southeast Asia, about Abominable Snowmen, and so on.

IN THE interests of wide (and PORTUNITY.

He has been at the job for nearly a decade, and this 107 brings to 2,171 the number of Korean warifs he has brought to the United States and found homes for.

WHAT will be their future? Here is the communist version of it, as promulgated by Red North Korea's Pyongyang radio:

"They are to be sold to plantation owners and capitalists as CHILD SLAVES—where they will undergo all sorts of humiliation and mistreatment!"

WHAT shall we do about things like that? JUST CONSIDER THE SOURCE, I reckon.

That's what the Chinese communists would do with American orphan children if the situation was reversed and the communist government was taking them over there.

They must be judging us by WHAT THEY WOULD DO in similar circumstances.

A local legal firm held an open house at its new offices last week. They sent out about 500 invitations, but from the looks of things, about twice that many people must have showed up.

Anyway, carried away by the refreshments, and the many stylish women in attendance, one observer commented, "Styles are certainly following fluid lines here today."

Some European Socks Need Pulling Up

By ERIC SEVAREID

Department stores use the first days of the new year for grab-bag sales to move out sizes, odd-lots, misfits and faulty goods, there is nothing in our contract that says we can't do the same. The lining of our briefcase is filled, not only with left-over coins from a dozen countries but with unsold thoughts, half-thoughts, facts, figures, prejudices and crotchets, and we may as well toss part of the litter on the counter for any indiscriminating shoppers still on their feet.

America is a materialistic society. Well, we possess the material, but from my own travel experience I would put the new Africans first and the French second in terms of the materialistic spirit.

Europeans find American boasting our most insufferable fault. They have a point, but bragadocio is a fault more easily curable than the average Briton's deep seated conviction that God is British, the average Frenchman's indifference to the rest of the world and the leftover germs of the master-race syndrome that sleep in many German breasts.

Americans get too hysterical about the Marxists in their midst. Americans do, considering that there are so few. But I notice that it is the hard core of Marxists who now threaten to split Belgium in two, that it was the hard core

of Marxists who drove the British Labor party down the official policy line of neutralism.

Americans, devoid of a native culture, think they can buy other people's culture with money. Maybe this is why European art dealers cry on their way to the bank, although the highest private prices paid for paintings in recent history were paid by an English collector. I also notice that the number of Americans who visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York is far higher than the number of Europeans of all nationalities who visit the Louvre, that more people enter Detroit's Art Museum than enter the famous British Museum, and I incline to doubt that all the 35 million music lovers who regularly listen to America's symphony orchestras—more than half the world's total—own oil wells in Texas.

American education is sloppy and superficial and too concerned with technical studies. A sickening amount of it is pabulum indeed, but I notice British leaders now getting panicky about their own paltry efforts at scientific education; I notice that 30 to 40 per cent of the new techniques

Flight o' Time

Medford and Jackson County History from the files of The Mail Tribune 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years ago.

10 YEARS AGO

Jan. 15, 1951 (Monday) Two men walked into the city police station here last night and asked for a place to sleep; police gave them one all right—the two men were wanted for car theft.

More than 100 livestock raisers attended the annual meeting of the Jackson County Stockmen's association in Central Point.

20 YEARS AGO

Jan. 15, 1941 (Wednesday) Estimated income from agriculture in Jackson county last year was \$9,300,000, an increase of \$1,252,000 over the previous year.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "Registration of aliens recently completed shows 4,471,971. Leading cities of the land for years boasting they had 'more Italians than Rome' can now start firing the Chamber of Commerce secretaries."

30 YEARS AGO

Jan. 15, 1931 (Thursday) Bids were opened for improvement of the Crater Lake highway between Eagle Point and Trail yesterday and construction will start soon.

40 YEARS AGO

Jan. 15, 1921 (Saturday) Rumor that oil has been struck near Klamath Falls turns out to be nothing more than a rumor.

Ben Peart of Central Point purchased the first hunting and fishing license in Jackson county this year.

50 YEARS AGO

Jan. 15, 1911 (Sunday) The Medford school board Saturday awarded the contracts for construction of the Queen Anne and Jackson blvd. elementary schools to Alfred Ivey, a local contractor. The estimated cost of the two schools is \$33,000 each and they are scheduled for completion by Aug. 15.

Medford's famous exhibit building will be purchased by a syndicate of local businessmen and turned over to the Medford Commercial club.

What's Your I.Q.?

Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good.

- 1. During the War of 1812, who was President of the United States?
2. In which hour after his crucifixion did Jesus die?
3. Who is the present Secretary of the Army?
4. How many one inch pipes are required to convey as much water as a four inch pipe?
5. Which was the last State admitted to the Union, prior to Alaska and Hawaii?
6. What letter is missing from this scrambled word beginning with P: Pmtr?
7. Are British and U. S. gallons the same?
8. Does the United States derive a large portion of its regulatory power through interstate or intrastate commerce?
9. Who was the champion of American League batters in 1955?
10. In what year did Nationalist China's government flee to Formosa?
Answers: 1. James Madison. 2. Sixth. 3. Wilbur M. Brucker. 4. 16 (square of diameter). 5. Arizona. 6. E (permltr). 7. No. (British equals 1.20094 U.S.) 8. Interstate. 9. Collins. (340) 10. 1949.