

ABOUT COUNTY HOME RULE

Committee Members Give Reasons for Their Vote

(Editor's note: This is another in a series of statements by members of the Jackson county home rule study committee in which they review their reasons for voting for or against drawing up a home rule charter for consideration by the voters.)



MacLEOD MAURICE

"At this stage in our study it is my own personal opinion a home rule charter could prove advantageous to Jackson county," MacLeod Maurice, home rule committee member said.

"I have had the opportunity personally to compare some of the differences creating a need for home rule in California and Oregon. In California ever since 1911 any legislation enacted for the benefit of any one or more counties has been made available to any other county at a later date regardless of population. Many counties in California, therefore, have been able to avail themselves of one or more of these general laws to take care of internal needs as they arise.

"The California counties have been empowered, also, to police or enforce these general laws as they are adopted. This has been made possible by population explosions occurring in not one, but many counties in that state.

"Besides metropolitan cities of San Francisco and Los Angeles; Sacramento, Bakersfield, Fresno, San Diego and more recently, Santa Clara county (San Jose) all have re-

quired special legislation available to the other counties under the general laws of the state. Within the last two months I have visited a California community of 4,000 to 4,500 population that is so satisfied with its county government that it has not incorporated or set up a separate government or charter of its own.

"Not so in Oregon. We have the single bell-wether metropolis, and count out at each stage at which special legislation was enacted for Portland and Multnomah county. It was made available to all other Oregon counties when, and if, each one reached the same population level as the metropolitan area at the time it was enacted.

"Thus Lane county having recently reached a population level exceeding 150,000, finds automatically available to it laws and powers enacted for Portland and Multnomah county in the era of 1915. Such powers have very little if any value to Lane county as of now.

"With a 1960 population of close to 74,000 in Jackson county, I will be a long time dead before this county will be empowered to do the things Portland and Multnomah county found it necessary to do when I was a high school student there.

"I feel certain the citizens of Jackson county will find it advisable to take current legislative action in their own behalf before they fall heir to the benefits of antiquated state-wide legislation. When they do so it will be under some form of home rule.

"The 1960 census recorded a total population of 73,900 for Jackson county. A total of 40,900 lived in incorporated municipalities of which there are 10. This left about 33,000 outsiders who could not exercise part of the rights to which residents of the smallest incorporated municipalities were entitled.

"Although these outsiders outnumber the residents of either of the largest cities (Medford and Ashland) they cannot hope to enjoy the rights and privileges of those citizens until annexed or unless some form of home rule is adopted.

"Now this does not mean that the residents of the incorporated municipalities enjoy any greater county-wide rights than the outsiders. Both vote for county officials who can do very little, if anything, for either of them that is not prescribed by state legislation.

"To my mind the value of our voting franchises to each of us is impaired if we cannot vote to settle matters of concern to the county as well as municipal, state and national matters.

"A home rule charter could overcome most, if not all, of these inequalities. It could, however, relieve the county government of the responsibility of fulfilling and enforcing existing and future general laws enacted by state legislature. County government in whatever form we might continue would still remain an agency of the greater entity of sovereignty of the state of Oregon.

"I envision a home rule charter for Jackson county as a simple and broad instrument which will keep strictly within the perimeter of state requirements, and still integrate without conflict the

rights and privileges of all residents of the county whether they live inside or outside incorporated areas.

"My vote is to give this type of a home rule charter for Jackson county a try."



MRS. THOMAS RUTTER

Mrs. Ritter's Statement
What is home rule? This is the question people are asking now as the Jackson county home rule committee prepares a charter for the primary elections May, 1962.

"It is the power of the people of any given county to determine for themselves, through adoption of a county charter, how county government should be organized and what functions it should perform," according to Kenneth Tollenaar, executive secretary of the Association of Oregon Counties.

"Home rule returns to the people of a county a power now exercised exclusively by the state legislature," he explained.

"Except for judicial functions, a home rule charter could provide for complete reorganization of county government, for partial reorganization, or for no reorganization at all. It might or might not provide for local legislative or law-making power.

By law, a charter must reserve to the people powers to initiate a charter or have it referred to them for adoption, amendment, revision, or repeal," Tollenaar pointed out.

The chief reason, Mrs. Thomas Rutter, Medford, home rule committee chairman, favors a charter is "to put control of county government in the hands of voters and taxpayers of Jackson county instead of in the hands of the state legislature."

Lobbying for the needs of the counties wastes the time and money of local officials, taxpayers and legislature. It diverts the attention of the legislature from matters of state concern.

Oregon county populations indicate a wide variation in the needs of the counties. Populations range from 3,000 to 500,000.

Governmental research indicates that a plural body or commission is effective for legislative or policy-making functions, but single administration is best for executive functions.

A charter could provide or contract for services such as fire protection or sanitation. Under a charter, no county would have the power to control or supersede a municipality or special district, but voters of the smaller unit might voluntarily obtain more economical and satisfactory administration of services from the county.

The county already assesses, collects taxes, and acts as treasurer for smaller units, so there is a precedent for expanding services, Mrs. Rutter pointed out. Jackson county has 45 units of local government, many of them overlapping.

Duties could be combined under one officer or department, with a charter, thus achieving more economy and efficiency. Unnecessary offices could be abolished.

Centralized purchasing and personnel offices could save time, money and duplication of effort.

A charter could be changed by amendment at home with two to 10 years delay of action by the legislature.

Flexibility and adjustment to growth in population, business and industry could be achieved under a charter.

A charter would allow county to be governed by dictators of good business and common sense rather than by legislative mandate, Mrs. Rutter concluded.

William Davies, school of forestry, Oregon State college, will speak at the April meeting of the Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association Friday, April 14, at the Jackson hotel, Medford.

Davies will report on management techniques an forestry practices used by OSC on the school's McDonald forest, which is administered by the school of forestry. He is also expected to outline the present status of the school of forestry and answer questions concerning future plans.

Committee reports on legislative developments will also be presented, according to Dale Prentice, secretary-manager of the association.

Al Smith, Medford Corporation, association president, has requested members in Medford, Ashland and Grants Pass to contact the SOCTFA office in Medford to make reservations for the meeting.

A social hour and entertainment at 7 p.m. will precede the dinner meeting. Dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m.

Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Mrs. E. Y. - The clique is like a Keep Away sign to other girls.

Margery Y. - They can form their own club instead of hanging around ours.

Mrs. E. Y. - My daughter, Margery, is 12. She and two classmates call themselves The Secret Swans. They have all sorts of rituals which keep the other girls in the class at arms' length. For example, they write notes in a code they made up, and they talk (obviously, about the others) in their own variation of Pig Latin. Also, every day they each wear something belonging to the other two.

I've tried to explain to Margery how unkind it is to reject girls on the outside. One of these is Adrienne, who used to be her pal in the lower grades. Adrienne's mother told me that the Swans treat the non-Swans with disdain, and pick on Adrienne, in particular, because of her lip.

Margery Y. - Adrienne is a schmo. She just stands around waiting for me to invite her into The Secret Swans. I stopped being friendly with her over a year ago. She has plenty of other friends in the class and they should start their own club. But instead she keeps begging me, "Margie, let me be a Theoret Thwan." That makes us laugh and say no. So, of course, she feels sore and tells her mother we're mean and horrible.

We have lots of fun with our club. Every day we think up new secrets for just us three to know. Like today we're all wearing red sweaters and silver pins. But none of them are our own!

The Council - In trying to get Margery to understand how it feels to be shut out and scorned, Mrs. Y. is tackling a job of education that might well be reinforced by the school itself. For some mysterious reason, Margery and Adrienne and their classmates are learning everything about the nature of plants and insects and governments, but nothing about the rules of human nature.

Adrienne, already burdened with a speech handicap, deserves some sympathy and courtesy rather than ridicule and heckling. She, no less than Margery and her chums, is at an age where "belonging" is all. Certainly Margery can ease the transition from the old ties to the regrouping which may well make each girl happier in the long run.

To soften the rupture, Margery and Co. might invite Adrienne and a few other girls to some of their non-caballistic meetings. No longer "best" friends, these two can be good friends. Meanwhile, from widening her contacts and observing how Margery and her new pals operate, Adrienne may soon find herself the kingpin of a new club.

As to "secrets," they're fine as a bond, but not as a weapon. They must be harmless and offer no threat to others, serving only as special identification among members. Nobody reveals secrets which, however deviously, lead to good. The "secret word" on Groucho's program, for example, leads to \$100.

Mrs. Y. is doing an alert mother's job in calling Margery's attention to the power of a clique to wreak cruelty. Concomitantly she can remind Margery of the equal power to act constructively and compassionately, and still have the fun of exclusivity among themselves.

Perhaps Mrs. Y. can plump, through the PTA and the local school board, for the sort of course in Human Relations now being offered in many high schools and most colleges. Conscientious mothers like Mrs. A. and well-meaning kids like Margery would welcome insight into what makes people tick, presented in suitable installments from Kindergarten up.

For children to study children is no "frill." It's as fundamental as the 3 R's.

Japan Government, Industry Seek To Expand Trade Lines

By HENRY J. BECHTOLD UPI Financial Editor

New York—Recent predictions of further liberalizing of Japanese trade relations point up the steps being taken by both government and industry of that growing nation to keep its export-import flow running smoothly.

The Fuji Bank said the removal of import restrictions on 720 additional items, effective April 1, is a definite new step in this area. This brought the list to 2,700 items or 65 per cent of Japan's imports.

Also of importance is Japan's action in allocating \$3.9 billion for imports and invisible trade payments for the six months ended Sept. 30, a 13 per cent increase over the six months just ended.

Favorable Trade Balance
Government officials, explaining the budget approval, cited a favorable trade balance exceeding \$30 million and foreign exchange reserves of \$2.02 billion, expected by Sept. 30.

These steps followed the introduction of limited yen-to-foreign currency convertibility last July—all actions aimed at changing Japan's vital overseas trading system from official government control to a free market.

All this action is of vital concern to the United States also, for not only does Japan live by export, but depends equally on imports being one of the biggest customers for U.S. goods and services.

Japanese manufacturers and exporters have fared well selling in the lucrative U.S. market in the face of increased complaints of unfair competition. Whether they continue to do so remains to be seen.

One key Japanese exporting industry believes the solution for continued heavy export sales lies in a voluntary industry program of self-imposed standards.

Permit Continued Exports
Only such approaches will permit the continued exports Japan needs to continue im-

porting from the United States, according to the Japan Binoculars Export Promotion Association.

From a 1948 export of exactly 308 pairs of binoculars, sales have grown to an estimated 1.8 million units this year. Some 95 per cent of the industry's output will be exported this year, 57 per cent to the United States. The association placed the export value at about \$17 million.

The industry has set price

floors insuring fair wages to its workers, which the association said are high by Japanese standards and fair by any standards.

Steps Successful
It also said that the industry has sought to insure fair earnings to the bakers, exporters, importers and retailers of the binoculars.

It declared that these steps have been successful in preventing the hue and cry which might easily develop with free wheeling competition. "So much so, that Japan now accounts for the sale of about 99 per cent of all the binoculars imported into the United States," it added.

Carbon Monoxide Victim Identified

Hillsboro - UPB - A woman found dead of accidental carbon monoxide poisoning Sunday in a panel truck near Six Corners was identified by the coroner's office as Millicent Frances Ferguson, about 35, Seattle.

Also found dead was a man identified as Clifford Wallace Neeley, Vancouver, Wash. State police said the couple apparently had fallen asleep after the panel left the road and had succumbed to fumes after leaving the motor running to keep the heater going.

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Revitalizing of Public Lands in Oregon Outlined

Portland - UPB - A new program aimed at revitalizing public lands in Oregon was outlined Monday by Karl S. Landstrom, director of the Bureau of Land Management.

Landstrom said the program would make the federal lands "more available" to the public for recreation.

He said the first program would be setting aside of about 25,000 acres of public recreational lands bordering the Deschutes river in Central Oregon as a multiple use area for integrated grazing, watershed management, wildlife management and mining, hunting, camping and fishing activities.

Calls for Study
Another program calls for Walter H. Horning, chief forester for BLM, to make a study and evaluation of BLM forestry activities and practices in Western Oregon.

Other programs call for a second land exchange between BLM and Stecco Inc., which Landstrom said would provide a contribution to the Save-The-Gorge movement of the Columbia River Gorge Commission, and a project to develop lands in Multnomah county near the Sandy river.

Resident Enrolls in Engineering Course

Larry G. Fraser, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Fraser, 1710 Easy st., has enrolled in an electronic engineering technology program at the Capitol Radio Engineering Institute, Washington, D. C.

A graduate of Medford High school, Fraser served four years in the U.S. air force.

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OSC Man To Speak At SOCTFA Meeting

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Bidding Postponed On Medford Motel

Bid opening for construction of the new 44-unit Medford motel, to be built adjacent to the Medford hotel, has been delayed for 10 days until April 21, it has been announced.

The bids had originally been scheduled to be opened April 11. The new motel and a large banquet room will be erected directly west of the existing hotel. The two structures will be connected.