

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

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Legislative Committees

The role that committees play in the legislature is a vital one. Without committees, the legislature simply couldn't function.

Committees are assigned to consider bills in various fields. Ideally, they study each bill which is referred to them, often holding public hearings on the measures, or investigating their worth and desirability in other ways.

After these studies, the committees have several courses of action.

They can "table" a bill in committee—which means to kill it, preventing further consideration (although this action can be reversed).

They can simply ignore a bill, and let it die in committee at the end of the session.

They can send it out on the floor of the House or Senate with a recommendation that it "do pass," or "do not pass," or with no recommendation at all.

They can, and sometimes do, send a bill to the floor with a divided report, some committee members recommending "do pass" and others "do not pass."

THE most important function of committees, in our view, is to screen out the obviously bad legislation, the special-interest bills and the crackpot bills, which pop up at every session.

This committee power, however, sometimes is extended to bills which may have merit, but which do not coincide with the personal views of committee members.

(Incidentally, the presiding officers wield much of their considerable power by reason of the fact that they appoint the committees, and select the committees to which bills are referred.)

SO, IN ADDITION to screening out crackpot bills, committees oftentimes prevent their houses from considering legislation which many members feel is good.

No one questions the right of a committee to do this. But it may be appropriate to question the propriety of such action, in certain cases.

For instance, the so-called "three-way bill" (which, it so happens, we oppose) was passed by the Senate, and, although there is considerable sentiment in favor of it in the house, it has been tabled in committee.

TO SUMMARIZE: A committee performs a valuable function when it gives a quick quiet death to crackpot legislation.

But there is a real question whether it should use its lethal authority to kill substantial pieces of legislation without giving other members of the House or Senate a chance to hear debate on the merits of the bills.

In the case of the three-way bill, it is our opinion that the committee should report it out, either with a "do not pass" recommendation, or on a divided report.

Otherwise, it is substituting its own opinions and prejudices for the judgment of the whole House.—E.A.

Science is Universal

Frank Jenkins, in his column today, says:

"Prying open the secret of the atom bomb was an American achievement—with help from some smart Britons."

That's good oversimplification, but it's lousy history.

Albert Einstein, a German Jew, is generally accorded the honor of laying the groundwork for nuclear energy, which later resulted in the now-famous formula: E equals mc squared, E being energy, m, mass, and c, the speed of light.

EINSTEIN'S early theoretical work was built upon, and paralleled, by many other workers, including Neils Bohr, a Dane, and Lise Meitner, Otto Hahn and E. Strassmann, Germans.

Enrico Fermi, an Italian, first hypothesized plutonium in 1935, and was a member of the group which achieved the first chain reaction. Of course, Jenkins is right in that the development of the A-bomb was paid for by Americans, mostly in America, in pursuit of the American war effort.

THE point we wish to make in this nit-picking at Frank's column is to underline the fact that science, by its very nature, is international, or better, universal, in character—a point he himself concedes later in his column.

Even the race for space, so much in our minds these days, is based on the speculations and experiments of many hundreds of scientists of many nationalities. A TV program the other night illustrated the point nicely, by showing the first serious rocket theoretician was a Russian, the first practical rocketeer an American, and that the first great rocket developments were done by Germans.

A second point: How utterly tragic it is that so much of mankind's genius has been devoted to weapons of death and destruction.—E.A.

Dennis the Menace



TELEVISIONS OKAY, BUT I LIKE TO SEE SOME REALLY BIG HORSES ONCE IN A WHILE!

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.

A Contrast To the Editor: At last we are being told what Home Rule is supposed to be, after talking all around it for weeks.

It is about time the people had a chance to object to some things. But we all thought that government was "for the people and by the people."

I can tell you of a couple of things which make quite a comparison. I learned by reading the little Times weekly edited in Rogue River, that the county is talking of making a \$7,000 cement block and electrically heated dog house (maybe I should say parlor).

Each dog is not kept over five days before it is disposed of, either by death or a new home. There is a perfectly good building which could be used for this purpose at a cost of only a few hundred dollars for repair and moving a short distance.

Now for the comparison: A few days ago I was told about an old lady that had been in Salem a few years. She became mentally improved so was moved to a home in Jackson county. While in Salem she was furnished a wheel chair in which she could get around a little and get some sunshine. But here she has no wheelchair to use. Just has to sit or lie in bed all the time.

If a dog could talk I'm sure he would tell you he would prefer to lie on the ground with only a little shelter from the rain. I'm sure he would tell you also, to get the old lady the wheel-chair. Dogs are sympathetic, we all know that.

A Variety of History To the Editor: I attended school in the "Horse and Buggy Days" when our schools laid great emphasis on the "three R's"—"reading, righting" and "rithmetic."

Reading and writing were given a back seat some years ago, and now it appears that arithmetic has taken a tail spin. I refer to the recent articles regarding the trial of Eichmann, who was illegally arrested in South America, hijacked to Israel, and is now on trial in Jerusalem for killing six million Jews.

About the time Hitler came into power, the official Jewish count of the Jews in Germany was slightly over one half million (540,000). Thousands of them fled to the USA and other countries (Truman set aside twelve ships to bring them to this country). How many thousands escaped before, during and after the war we do not know, but Hitler killed 6 million.

And now Eichmann is accused of killing 6 million (presumably some of the same ones) and there are still many left. We used to say "figures don't lie" but now I wonder! John C. Stille, Shady Cove, Ore.

He Takes His Stand To the Editor: While I have not always agreed with your point of view, I want to write to express my deep appreciation for your recent editorial, "A Lesson." This point of view needs to be emphasized in Medford.

As you know, Mrs. Smith was a member of our Church, and we had a genuine sense of Christian love for her and the family. She not only sang in the choir, but taught a Senior High Sunday Church School class, and served on our publicity committee. Harold often attended fellow-

Many Differences Still Divide Western Allies as Kennedy Meeting Top Leaders

By PHIL NEWSOM

UPI Foreign News Analyst For 43-year-old President Kennedy, it was too away and one to do.

He has seen Prime Minister Harold Macmillan of Britain, a courtly Edwardian - appearing 87, and Chancellor Konrad Adenauer of West Germany, tough, unyielding, 85.

At the end of May it will be the proud President Charles de Gaulle of France, 70.

At 43, Kennedy represented a young administration, un-

afraid of change. He was 24 years younger than Macmillan, little more than half the age of Adenauer.

The youth of the new administration and its willingness to switch from long-established policy was a source of both hope and uneasiness to the older men who came to Washington to see him and to De Gaulle whom he would see in Paris.

On major issues their policies and differences were well established. Now they wanted to learn where they stood in Washington.

Among all four there was a grim realization that the need for Western unity was as great now as 12 years ago when, together with other

Western allies, they established NATO.

With the emergence of Red China as a major power, the struggle against communism had become global. To the fluid foreign policy of the Soviet Union, Red China's swaggering truculence had been added.

Yet among the United States and its three major allies there were major differences not quickly erased.

French representatives made clear their resentment over what they regarded as the Kennedy administration's interference with its Algerian problem. Outside intervention

now, they felt, only complicated De Gaulle's task of restoring peace to Algeria after more than six years of war.

Between Britain and the United States there long has been a difference of opinion as to the Allied approach to the problem of international communism.

Adenauer arrived in the United States uneasy over the United States' intentions toward a strong NATO. An even greater difference between the two existed over U.S. efforts to persuade West Germany to bear a greater share of the burden in NATO and in aid to under-developed nations.

Washington Report

By William S. White (c) United Feature Syndicate

TESTING TIME

Washington—What is really happening here as one grand high-level international conference follows another, as one allied leader arrives on the departing heels of another to talk to President Kennedy?

Are not great and fateful decisions, vital to hundreds of millions of people, actually now being made? Are not enormously important concerns really being drawn up between President and British Prime Minister, between President and German Chancellor, and so on?

For though this is inherently the most critical spring in world affairs since World War II, it is not yet a time for decision-making. It is, instead, a time for attitude-testing, for personal exploration of the maps of personality between the President and his elevated colleagues of the western world.

IT IS a time for getting to know one another, for drawing up private estimates of one another, for learning what to expect of one another later when, at an even more critical phase, the chips may be truly down between the West and the Soviet empire.

So it is a phase not for the crossing of bridges but rather for building the approaches to bridges.

It is a time not for making hard plans of action but rather for reaching hard-headed judgments of what such-and-such a chief of such-and-such a nation really thinks, really means, and really is.

It is not so much a time for making high policy as it is for mixing high people together in the only form of "foreign conference" where they can come truly and actually to grips with each other as men. This is in private meetings in which statesmen have a chance to measure the man beneath the government and people he represents.

FOR in western politics we have what we insist are "governments of law" but which are, in truth, governments of men. What really counts in the end is not all the policies in a statesman's briefcase but what he himself is—his prejudices and convictions, his going point and his stopping point.

Treaties are supposed to be laws standing above men. But treaties in reality are only the instruments of men. And in foreign affairs, unlike domestic affairs, there is no major western leader who is not capable of acting, in crisis, how he chooses—or falling to act—of his own bat. No congress, no parliament, no high court, no party can at that moment really check or spur him. One or another of these agencies might later be able to control or oust him. But at the moment of truth he personally is, in world affairs and in the hour of crisis, his government.

All this is why all the official summaries we have been seeing of conferences at the White House seem so uninformative. You can summarize an actual bargain struck. But you cannot summarize what two men really thought of each other after consultations in which theoretically they have "gone over" all the world's problems but in which actually have, most of all, gone over each other.

THIS, then, is only the end of the beginning of the administration's job in foreign policy. The information necessary to making great and critical decisions is being gathered. But most of the decisions themselves are yet to come.

Though several will be necessary, two and only two stand at the heart of it all: Will the Soviet Union agree at last to genuinely controlled nuclear disarmament? And—as a part of the same question—if not, will the U.S. then spread nuclear weapons among our allies?

And, second, will the western alliance be strengthened in conventional weapons in truth and in fact so that whatever else may happen, the West will be able to defend itself?

Punching Holes

To the Editor: It has been six years since I poked a hole in a salmon card. Things wuz going to be different this year. I'm going to mail a salmon card full of holes to the Oregon Fish and Game Commission like they never seen before. I'm going to nail my salmon card to the top of a fence post and blow it full of holes with a sawed off shot gun.

Everett Acklin, Ashland, Ore.

Waterfowl Areas Receive Support

Portland (UPI)—The State Game Commission said today it has given firm support to acquisition and development by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of five or six waterfowl management areas in the Willamette Valley.

The commission said it favored development of several 1,500 to 3,000-acre tracts located at strategic locations instead of a single large development.

It said such development would tend to distribute waterfowl over a wider area and allow better hunting opportunities.

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop (c) New York Herald Tribune Syndicate

April Fool for Col. Hung

Ben Tre, Kien Hoa Province, Vietnam—As in most of the provinces of South Vietnam at present, the second personage of this smiling delta province is the commander of the local Communist underground group.

In less fortunate provinces, which are too numerous, the Communist commander is the dominant personage; but in Kien Hoa, Col. Hung, as he is called, has had to take second place.

He has only had to take second place rather recently. This province, with its rich agriculture and fisheries, its maze of waterways, its heavy cover of coconut palms, mangoes, and bananas, is ideal guerrilla territory. The Communist made a major effort here from the day, in 1959, when they sent their 502nd Battalion into Kien Hoa. Four of President Diem's province chiefs were successively defeated by them.

Col. Hung would probably have accomplished his mission, which was to create an immune Communist base in Kien Hoa, if President Diem had not taken something of a gamble. When his fourth province chief failed, Diem replaced him with an old Communist comrade in arms of Col. Hung's, now Lt. Col. Pham Ngoc Thao of the South Vietnamese army. I have been spending some days with this remarkable man, and although it is hardly current news, I cannot resist describing Col. Thao's April fool surprise for Col. Hung.

THE story usefully suggests the present atmosphere in beleaguered Vietnam. It begins with the fact that Col. Thao, being an ex-Communist, understands the arts of infiltration and counter infiltration just as well as Col. Hung. Therefore, when Col. Hung planned a kind of local coup d'etat in this little provincial capital, Col. Thao had the news the same day.

It was late, all the same—4:30 p.m., April 1st, at a moment when almost all the provincial troops were already engaged in operations elsewhere. The most Col. Thao could get back before 8-hour, which was announced as 9 p.m. that same evening, were two lonely companies. It was just enough.

The Communist plan of operations was formidably astute. Six trusted cadres, disguised as peasants, were to seize the power house at 9 p.m. with inside help. An other small squad, again with inside help, had the task of seizing the lightly guarded arms depot of the Civil Guard. A further detachment was to move against the jail, with the aim of liberating its several hundred Communist prisoners.

But more men of the reserve company pounced on the depot and rounded up the lot. Another pounce, and the intending attackers of the jail were in the bag. Another pounce, and three truck drivers of the Public Works Department were also picked up just as they were about to head out of town. Still another pounce, and four men in the market, who had already put on the Communist identification brassards, were added to Col. Thao's collection.

"The last men we got was my gardener, who was the one assigned to kill me," said Col. Thao cheerily. "One of the men at the jail told us about him. The servants in the province chief's house used to be very stylish—French leftovers, well trained. I took soldiers instead because I did not trust them. I should have changed the gardener too."

HE ADDED, regretfully, that he thought of turning off the town lights himself, thus giving the secret signal to advance, so that he could ambush the larger Communist groups on their way into town. But the whole roundup had been so quick and quiet that hundreds of people were still watching an outdoor movie in the market place. "And if we'd had a fight, we'd have killed a score or so of innocent men and women." All the same Col. Thao had a good April Fool's day and Col. Hung had a bad one.

Two days later, Col. Hung tried to get his own back, by celebrating the visit to Ben Tre of Archbishop Ngo Dinh Thu, President Diem's brother, with grenade throwing instead of fireworks. But there was another tipoff. The grenades were found in the luggage compartment of a car which one of the town's rich men had contributed to the archepiscopal procession.

"In these two failures," said Col. Thao, "the enemy lost many key cadres. This is the reason, I think, that we had such a quiet election day."

Col. Thao's fairly hair-raising standards of bitterness will be understood by those who have read a previous report in this space.

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

SHE WAS PURCHASING her first life insurance policy and found a few of the questions thrown at her a bit baffling. "What's your maximum weight?" She answered easily enough with "About 150 pounds," but the next query, "What's your minimum weight?" stopped her. After some hesitation, however, she brightened. "I think," she said, "it was seven pounds, four ounces."

Slouched over a bar, a disgruntled race track patron confessed he couldn't even pick the kind of drink he desired. "I'd order a pony of brandy," he explained to the bartender, "but I know it would come in last."

A smart, upcoming young musical comedy starlet, wearied of parrying the maneuvers of an uninhibited stage manager and a bald-headed producer, hung this sign outside her dressing room: "Abandon grope all ye who enter here."

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Flight o' Time

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

16 YEARS AGO

The Jackson st. bridge over Bear creek was opened to traffic yesterday, a day ahead of the time planned.

Richard Herndobler, president of the Ashland Chamber of Commerce, said he has been informed that the defense department has no immediate plans to make use of the WWII Camp White installation here.

30 YEARS AGO

A New York youth who lost both legs in an accident here two years ago, has wired his greetings to Medford people who aided him during his convalescence.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Menage For column": "The subject of the lawn mower is heard in the residential sections. If this nation wasn't a democracy it would be a machine gun."

30 YEARS AGO

April 14, 1931 (Tuesday) Police have centered their search in the Dead Indian country near Ashland for a would-be bank robber who fled when his partner was shot and killed in an attempted holdup of an Ashland bank yesterday.

The park service has ordered a survey for a possible Odelel lake west of new north boundary to Crater Lake National park at the

40 YEARS AGO

April 14, 1921 (Thursday) Two men were arrested in Medford yesterday following an unsuccessful attempt to rob the Gold Hill bank.

A Medford Chamber of Commerce committee is seeking to obtain a new armory for Medford.

50 YEARS AGO

April 14, 1911 (Friday) Frank W. Benson, Oregon secretary of state and former governor of the state, died today.

News headlines: "Hoboes Are Now Very Numerous; Housewives Are Being Troubled—Clothes and Food Is Being Aiked—Are Unfavorably Inclined Toward Jobs."

What's Your I.Q.?

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

1. Ten million is what part of one billion?
2. Name the author of the book "Mein Kampf."
3. G. L. are the initials of which popular orchestra leader who raced speed boats for relaxation?
4. What are the odds on guessing the three numbers in proper sequence in the policy or numbers game?
5. A passage in the Bible quotes a King as saying "all men are liars"; true or false?
6. Is an abridged dictionary larger or smaller than an unabridged dictionary?
7. The tangelo is a cross between which 3 citrus fruits?
8. How many singers comprise a septet?
9. Which character in the Bible is said to have lived 959 years?
10. What is the plural of larvax?

Answers: 1. One hundredth.
2. Adolf Hitler. 3. Guy Lombardo. 4. 999 to 1. 5. True. (Psalms 116:11) 6. Smaller. 7. Tangerine, orange and grapefruit. 8. Seven. 9. Methuselah. 10. Larvages or larvaxes.