

Babbling in Washington

Trap Doors Under Witness Chairs Might Curtail Flood of Testimony

By DICK WEST

Washington—The recent controversy over alleged "muzzling" at the Pentagon has a counterpart on Capitol Hill which might be defined as "babbling." It involves the tendency of congressional witnesses to open the floodgates of proximity when they are invited, or obtain permission, to testify at committee hearings.

TO SEE THE WORLD



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The problem has become so acute as to induce one toy company to design a "witness doll." You wind it up and it bends your ear.

It is my theory that many witnesses work on space rates. That is, they are paid to present the views of various groups under a scale based on the number of words they can get into the printed record.

Be that as it may, there is no doubt that babbling is burdensome to the committees. Over the years, some of the best minds in Congress have grappled with the question of how to curtail it.

Suggestions have been made for building trap doors under the witness chairs and for installing devices that would automatically signal a fire drill when testimony exceeded a certain length.

These proposals, however, seem inconsistent with the basic right of a citizen to exercise his tongue, and none has been adopted.

Now along comes Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy, an ingenious Democrat from Minnesota, with what I regard as the legal cure for galloping verbosity.

While talking with a group of reporters the other day, McCarthy noted that the Senate Finance Committee, of which he is a member, is preparing for hearings on President Kennedy's trade program.

Past experience indicates that the hearings will run for several weeks. But McCarthy has devised a plan which, if adopted, undoubtedly would shorten them by as much as 75 per cent.

Simply stated, it would require each witness to sit through the testimony of all the other witnesses.

McCarthy figures that if witnesses were forced to listen to each other they would voluntarily begin to fetter their vocal cords out of a mutual desire for self preservation.

Unfortunately, however, McCarthy's plan doesn't deal with the related problem of committee members who question witnesses at great length and then disappear.

To be truly effective, it

would have to be expanded to require that each member sit through the questioning by all the other members.

You can bet that would make a member think twice before asking a question, which could improve brevity by as much as 200 per cent.

Under present conditions, some of them don't even think once.

Special Summer Program Planned

A special summer program for "tiny tots" will be offered at the Medford Young Men's Christian association swimming pool this summer, YMCA officials have announced.

Boys and girls between 5 and 7 years old may enroll for swimming classes, which will be held on Monday and Thursday for boys and Tuesday and Friday for girls.

Classes will start June 11 for boys and June 12 for girls. Starting time is 9 a.m.

Classes will be kept small so each child may receive individual instruction, YMCA officials said.

This year is the first time such classes have been offered for five-year-olds. Three class levels — beginners, intermediate and advanced — are planned, and each child will be placed in a class according to his ability.

Registration for the classes may be made at the YMCA.

Coffee Break Is no Breakfast Substitute

Washington—Scientists at the University of Iowa College of Medicine recently conducted a series of tests with office and factory workers. They wanted to answer this question: "Is the coffee break an efficient substitute for an adequate breakfast?"

Citing the study, the U.S. department of agriculture said subjects who ate an adequate breakfast were more productive during the late morning hours, were quicker in their reactions and did not tire as easily as those who relied on coffee alone.

Three Buildings For Employment Offices Approved

Salem—New Oregon Employment Department buildings in Salem, Klamath Falls and Baker have been authorized by the State Emergency Board. All will be one story structures to house local offices of the employment department.

The action came over the protests of Senate President Harry Boivin, board chairman. The Klamath Falls Democrat, and several other legislators on the board, called for more time to study the plans, but the board finally approved them after the employment department said if the go-ahead wasn't authorized now, federal funds would be lost July 1.

The vote was 5-1, with Boivin voting no. The board authorized the department to spend \$486,018 in federal money for all three projects, and state funds aren't involved.

Salem Building Biggest
David H. Cameron, State Employment Commission chief, said he isn't certain yet how much each of the three projects will cost, but the Salem building will be the biggest, with 10,000 square feet. The Klamath Falls building will provide 7,500 square feet, and the Baker building about 5,000 square feet.

As for estimates, a fiscal committee analyst said it has estimates given earlier by Employment Department officials for two of the proposed buildings — \$129,379 for the Salem structure, and \$141,707 for the one at Klamath Falls. There was no available estimate for the one at Baker, but the balance left from the \$486,018 would apply \$53,924 to a start at Baker.

Preliminary work on all three will move ahead immediately, Cameron indicated.

Tax Revenues Lost
Boivin said the legislative delegations in the counties should have been contacted first, to check their views and those of their constituents. Boivin has long been on record opposing construction of new state buildings in local communities, because they take property off local tax rolls, and because private lessors are denied state rentals.



ON BIKE TRIP — John Worlund, left, a student at Graceland college in Iowa, and Malcolm Hodge, a University of Texas student, are shown in Odessa, Texas, as they take a break on a bicycle trip from Dallas to Tuston, Calif., "for the fun of it." They have been making about 100 miles a day on the 1,400 mile trip. (UPI)

Man on Trial Gives Judge Wrong Answer

Dillingham, Alaska—Joseph Doloukuk, on trial in Magistrate's court for drunkenness, was asked by the judge if the charge against him were true.

"I don't know," Doloukuk replied, "I was passed out." He was sentenced to 90 days in jail.

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Slips of Paper Important for Stock Trades

New York—Some of the "paper work" which accumulated last week after trading averaged over 10 million shares a day on the New York Stock Exchange was quite literally dealing with little slips of paper.

The slips are used every day as trading is conducted at the posts on the exchange floor, and it followed that when volume shot up, so did the number of slips.

They form the written record of a sale and purchase of stocks at the time it is made. They are handwritten by the floor brokers, who jot down the name of the other man in the transaction, and his floor number, taken from the button which he wears on his jacket.

Whenever you get the average man, whose handwriting is less than Spencerian, writing on a pad of paper in the hurly-burly of the nation's leading stock exchange, he's likely to stumble once in

a while, or write something that he can't read later.

This is not an indication of slipshod operation; one of the features of the New York Stock Exchange and the American Exchange, too, is the care which is taken at all times to make sure that a transaction goes through exactly as it should.

At the end of any day's operation, any of the slips whereon the information is not cleared is labeled a "d.k.," a "don't know." It may be then subjected to a recheck with the floor brokers in question; or the matter may be ironed out in the order rooms of the brokerage houses.

Under normal circumstances, this could be done during regular working hours in plenty of time for the transaction to be cleared up within the exchange's time limit on execution of orders.

But when one added up a blizzard of trading like that of a week ago, with 14,750,000 shares, or Thursday's with 10,710,000, capped by a Friday which was more than half the Thursday volume, etc., it was understandable why a good part of the bustle on the trading floor last Saturday centered around the slips of paper; at the trading posts, men thumbed through long stacks of them, making sure.

Bowler hats and Gordon's Gin... how are they linked in English history?

Both are native inventions that Englishmen still hold dear. Surprisingly though, the Bowler did not make its appearance on London streets until 1855, a full 86 years after Alexander Gordon introduced his remarkable gin. The Gordon's you drink today harks back to Mr. Gordon's original 1769 formula. We've never found reason to tamper with such unique dryness and delicate flavour. Why would we? Gordon's is the biggest selling gin in England, America and the world.



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NEW HOURS
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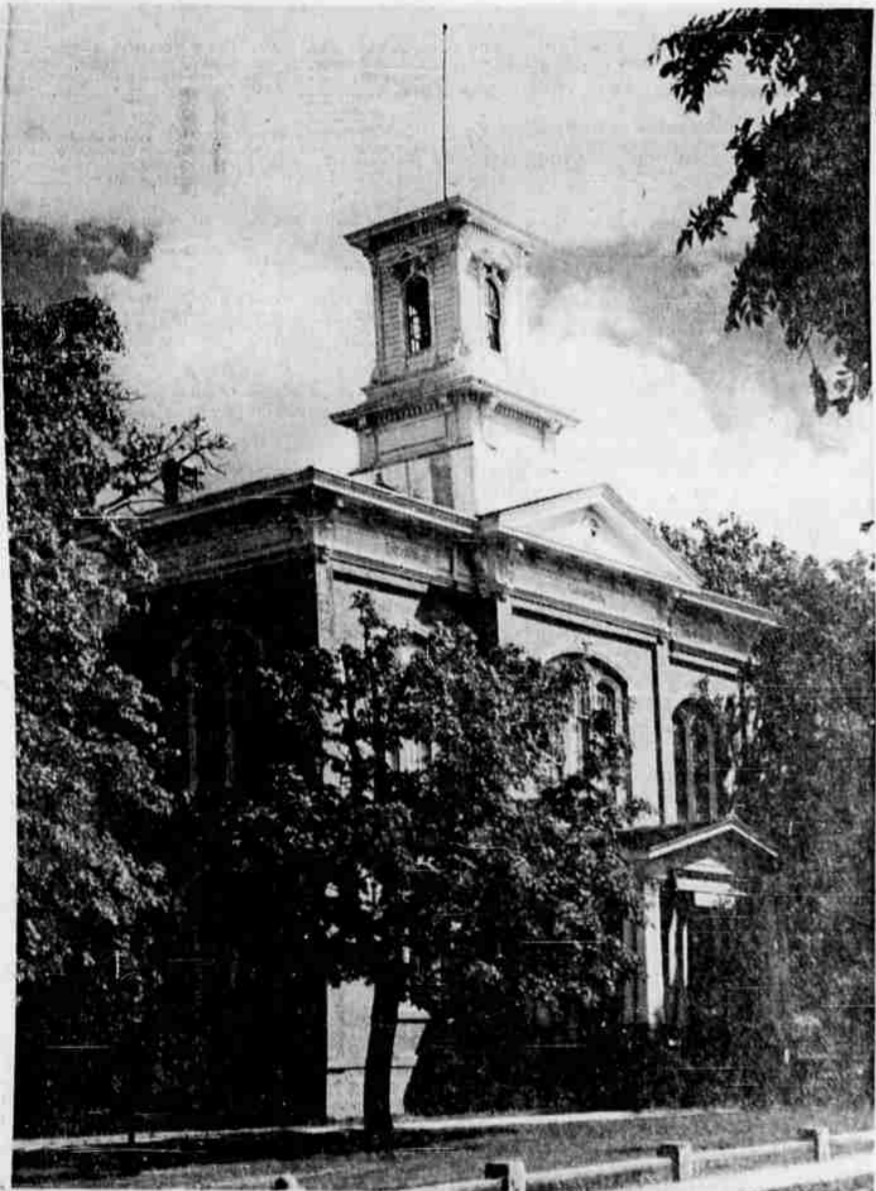
26 So. Grape

June is Jacksonville Museum Month

Relive the colorful days of the old West... the thrills of the gold rush and Indian wars!

YOU CAN when you Visit the ...

Jacksonville Museum



The attractive old brick courthouse that houses the Jacksonville Museum is, itself steeped in the history of the days before the turn of the century. The former seat of Jackson County government, dating from 1883-84, this venerable old structure was scene of many bitter court cases, the most sensational being the trial of the D'Autremont brothers, train bandits, and the trial of alleged Ku Klux Klan members for an attempted lynching. To accommodate the growing number of exhibits, the Southern Oregon Historical Society has added buildings adjacent to this old courthouse—all open to the public... all free!



The entire Rogue River Valley is rich in the romance of the old West, and there's no finer, more enjoyable way to relive those days than to visit YOUR Jacksonville Museum. You, your family and especially out-of-town guests will delight in the more than 6,000 individual collections. Among its most popular exhibits are the Britt Gallery, a replica of Peter Britt's Photographic Studio, one of the earliest in the Pacific Northwest, the Indian Room, containing artifacts and relics made and used by the valley's first inhabitants, the Gun Room, mineral displays and fluorescent room, a children's room, parlor, collection of wedding dresses and a Civil War exhibit.

The Southern Oregon Historical Society administers and maintains this museum—one of the finest in the West—and approximately 466,000 names appear on the registration book. So, with JUNE JACKSONVILLE MUSEUM be sure to make a date to visit the museum... you may spend all the time you wish and it is all FREE!

Visit YOUR Jacksonville Museum THIS MONTH!



A few of more than 6,000 individual collections awaiting your visit to the Jacksonville Museum this month... enjoy a visit this month, bring your family and friends — it's FREE!



Medford Mail Tribune

Photos by Bob Vroman