

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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For County Offices

There are five county offices at stake at the Nov. 6 general election — assessor, clerk, commissioner, county judge, and sheriff.

Assessor is a largely technical position, and logically would be an appointive, rather than an elective, office. However, since it remains elective under our system, we should elect a man principally on the basis of his qualifications.

The assessor and his staff are charged with the valuation of property for tax purposes, and preparing the levies for collection by the sheriff. The incumbent by appointment, Thad Hatten, is both competent and experienced. We see no need for a change, and recommend his election.

THE county clerk is the county's record-keeper and chief election officer. This too is largely a technical and administrative operation, not a policy-setting one. Most of the actual work in the office is done by experienced deputies, and in large measure, therefore, the county clerk is chiefly engaged in personnel administration and supervision.

Efficiency and courtesy to the public are the principal qualifications for office.

The candidates are Mrs. Bereth Hopkins, who previously has served in the office, the Republican, and E. M. Madden, the incumbent, a Democrat.

THE office was operated smoothly during the incumbency of each. Mrs. Hopkins claims she can operate the office more economically than Madden has done, and cites figures to support her contention. Madden has stated his principal aim is to attract and retain good staff people, and to operate a courteous office—which is a subtle jab at Mrs. Hopkins who has in the past irritated some constituents by her forthright manner of speaking.

Both candidates have, in the past, been active in partisan politics, each in his or her own party, and while this is, of course, their right, it does little to recommend them to serve in what is, in fact if not in practice, a non-partisan public service office.

This race, to us, is almost a toss-up. We believe the people will be well served no matter which one wins. Our personal choice for the job, however, is Mrs. Hopkins.

THE county commissioner's post, being vacated by Chester Wendt, is contested between Don Faber, Republican, former mayor of Central Point, and Larry Sheehan, Democrat, mayor of Rogue River.

The office is an important one, and, if performed conscientiously and effectively, a time-consuming one.

Sheehan has a more winning personality than does Faber, who can be somewhat overbearing at times. But on the basis of a broader experience in county and city government, as well as in business and teaching, we plan to cast our vote for Don Faber.

SEEKING reelection, was a good mayor of Medford. We have been considerably less impressed with the job he has done as county judge.

He is an honest man, we are convinced, and a sincere man. But he seems to have the doggone time making up his mind. As a result he gives the impression of vacillating, of postponing decisions, of passing the buck for decision-making to committees or public hearings.

Despite these tendencies we plan to cast our vote for him, instead of for Ralph James, former Democratic county commissioner running for county judge.

BOTH men are thoroughly decent individuals, and our preference for Miller is based on our belief that he can do a better job than James in a job that is part executive, part legislative, part administrative and part public relations. We would be more enthusiastic in our endorsement if we knew that reelection would give Miller the confidence he needs to make decisions and stick with them, and to exert the qualities of progressive leadership now so sadly lacking in the county court.

THE final county office on next month's ballot is sheriff. This is not a policy-making post, but it is an important one, including not only law enforcement, but also jail administration, tax collection and civil process administration. The office employs some 30 persons.

The two candidates are "De" A. Leigh, Republican, and Berle E. Stephens, Democrat.

Stephens is a private investigator, formerly a city police officer. Leigh has served as deputy sheriff, and also has had considerable business experience.

In our view, Leigh has far superior qualifications, in experience and in personality, and in his attitude toward the job. We strongly suggest a vote for "De" Leigh for sheriff.—E. A.

Judges Unopposed

Supreme Court Chief Justice William M. McAllister, Supreme Court candidate Arno H. Denecke, Oregon Tax Court Judge Peter Gunnar, and District Judge L. L. Sawyer all appear on the Nov. 6 ballot unopposed in the non-partisan judgeship election, each having won undisputed nomination in the primary election. Their election is a foregone conclusion, but a complimentary vote of confidence in each is indicated.

McAllister, Gunnar and Sawyer have served well in their present positions, and Denecke established a fine reputation as a circuit court judge.—E. A.

Vote For One



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. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with a view to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words. The letters printed in this column do not necessarily represent the views of the paper; in fact the contrary is often the case.

For Repeal
 To the Editor, and the taxpayers of Southern Oregon: If some one asked you to trade your right to vote for the right to petition to vote, what would your answer be? This is exactly what those who are opposing repeal of the School District Reorganization Law are asking Oregon voters to do.

Turn to page 50 in your Voter's Pamphlet and you will quickly grasp why this law must be repealed. Please note that the people voted it down once, but that a few years later our legislature over-ruled our vote and forced this law upon us. Also notice that the basic school fund has already been raided to the tune of nearly half a million dollars by the state to finance its program of enforcement of this very unpopular law.

Please study the facts about the repeal law — that it will stop forced reorganization, but will not repeal voluntary consolidation laws — that it will return control of school districts to the local people — that it will return your right to vote on any consolidation involving your district — that repeal will give you, the local people, the right to decide just how big your district will be, and just where your children shall go to school — and that it will get the State's hands out of your pocket-book by stopping the yearly appropriation of \$70,000 from our tax money to enforce the law we want repealed.

Then please study the facts about the present reorganization law until you clearly understand that it is compulsory, and takes local control of the schools away from the people, with an un-American centralization of power in the hands of the State Board of Education which is not elected, but appointed.

Fellow taxpayers, if we don't want complete state control of our children, our schools, and our school tax dollars, we'd better get on the ball and get everybody we know out to the polls this election to vote YES for repeal of our present School District Reorganization Law.

Hope Getchell
 778 N. W. Third St.
 Grants Pass, Ore.

Outstanding Legislator
 To the Editor: In regard to your recommendations for state representatives in Tuesday night's paper, I think that it should be pointed out that John Dellenback was selected as the outstanding freshman legislator by a secret poll of the press who attended the legislative sessions in Salem. This occurred in a predominantly Democratic legislative session.

In view of his record and ability, I don't see how the people of Jackson county can overlook the qualifications of John Dellenback when they cast their vote.

Mrs. John Collins
 2248 Dellwood Ave.
 Medford

Support No. 9
 To the Editor: At our board meeting of Oct. 16, 1962, the Portland Junior Chamber of Commerce unanimously decided to favor Ballot Measure 9 (Legislative Reapportionment).

Our position is based mainly on the following four points:

1. There is no major disparity between the existing plan and Ballot Measure 9 regarding the equality of representation. Four per cent is the maximum percentage difference involved.
2. The existing plan has been interpreted by the court in such a manner that major fractions are ignored. Our organization believes that the concept of major fractions is essential to fair representation, and Ballot Measure 9 restores this concept.
3. The existing plan allows for any combination of counties to form legislative districts. We feel that this can be grossly unfair due to the fact that an extremely large county can be combined with an extremely small county, thereby creating a situation where the numerical representation seems fair but in reality is not, due to the fact that the smaller of the counties loses its right to elect legislators.
4. What we consider to be the overwhelming factor in our decision is the fact that the existing plan allows any type of gerrymandering. Our principles force us to oppose the existing plan for this reason if no other. Ballot Measure 9 remedies the situation through its system of permanent legislative districts in the House and equality of counties in the Senate.

We know that neither plan is perfect, but for these four reasons the Portland Junior Chamber of Commerce sincerely hopes that you will join with us in striving towards a fairer system of representation by using the attached report as well as others as a basis for your support of Ballot Measure 9 on Reapportionment.

Portland Junior Chamber of Commerce,
 Charles R. McClellan II,
 President.

Cuban Living Standard, Once High for Latin America, Now at Subsistence Level

By PHIL NEWSOM
 UPI Foreign News Analyst



President Kennedy has made a point of the fact that the U.S. "quarantine" of Cuba will not cut off the necessities of life, as the Soviets attempted to do in their 1948 Berlin blockade. In actual fact, inept Communist leadership and resistance of the workers already have placed the Cuban people at close to the subsistence level.

All staple goods and most household commodities are rationed.

A government decree in March permitted each person three-quarters of a pound of meat and one and a half pounds of beans per week, and six pounds of rice and one cake of soap per month.

The government has been forced to parade tanks, troops and artillery to counter demonstrations against food scarcities in a country which once had one of the highest living standards in Latin America.

As shortages have mounted so has absenteeism. Earnings mean little if there was nothing to buy.

The Soviet Union has promised \$457 million in credits to Cuba, of which about \$45 million has been disbursed. The money spent thus far had no visible effect.

One of the top Communists, Blas Roca, wrote in the party newspaper Hoy:

"If we do not increase our production, there is no possible defense... because people who are dead of hunger cannot carry out the defense."

Noted the Swiss Review of World Affairs:

"Because of Cuba's utter dependence on the East bloc today, it now faces the question whether and to what extent its Communist trade partners will be willing and able to supply it with the raw materials, consumer goods and, above all, the food it cannot produce itself but must have to escape economic chaos."

"Havana's stores are now stocked with the cheapest and most useless products of Eastern origin; poorly printed Communist pamphlets from

Moscow, ceramics and artificial flowers from China, low-quality household goods made in East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

"Despite the great scarcity of meat the people refused to buy the East European canned meat offered for sale; a shipload of Chinese geese and tur-

keys last fall finally had to be used to feed the men taken prisoner in the invasion of April 1961, because this kind of poultry is an unfamiliar food to most Cubans.

"Moscow clearly considered the Castro regime's consolidation of military power more important than Cuba's economic reconstruction."

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop
 (c) New York Herald Tribune Syndicate

THE STRONGEST ARGUMENT

Washington — The strongest argument for the grim decision the President announced on Monday was not any of those which are now being most widely repeated.

The problem of Castro was pressing, of course. It was utterly unacceptable, of course, for Soviet offensive missiles to be placed in Cuba.

But this kind of Soviet use of Fidel Castro, and the resulting gain in Soviet nuclear striking power, were not the true essence of the problem. As the President more than hinted in his remarkable speech to the nation, the true essence of the problem was the American posture vis-a-vis the Soviet Union.

The President long argued, as reported in this space, that the painful irritant in Cuba grave and present danger at Berlin. But this argument lost its validity on Tuesday morning a week ago when the President, while still in bed, received the news that Soviet medium and intermediate range ballistic missiles were being hastily placed on Cuban soil.

At that moment, the Cuban problem and the Berlin problem merged together, into a single problem. The reason for this sudden merger, as you think about the circumstances, was very simple, indeed.

In his Cuban press conference in September, the President said that the Soviet military effort in Cuba required no American action, so long as the purpose was plainly defensive. But almost in the same breath, he added that American action would have to be considered if the Cuban build-up assumed an offensive character.

The significance of this statement was well understood by the Kremlin, as in-

deed by the facts summarized by the President on Monday. The official Soviet press hastened to answer the President with reassuring statements that the aim of Soviet "aid" to Cuba was purely to increase Cuba's defensive strength.

Thereafter, the Soviet Ambassador in Washington, Anatoly Dobrynin, repeatedly swore to leading personages in the U.S. government that ballistic missiles would never be placed in Cuba. With smooth perfidy, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko gave the President the same assurance when the contrary evidence was already in the President's hand.

ALL the while, quite naturally, the Kremlin well aware that American U-2s and other instruments of surveillance would inevitably reveal the true state of affairs to the U.S. government, as soon as the ballistic missiles began to be placed on their Cuban sites. Hence passive acceptance of the accomplished fact that the Kremlin was seeking to create in Cuba would have transformed the President's September warning into the weakest and emptiest sort of bluff.

Precisely because of the grave danger at Berlin, and for many other reasons as well, the United States and its President cannot afford to be regarded by the Kremlin as braggarts and bluffers. President Kennedy has pursued a policy of careful moderation — so careful, indeed, that it was provoking partisan attack before his speech to the nation on Monday. But he has not bluffed.

There were half a score of other reasons why the new development in Cuba could not be tolerated. But it could not be tolerated, above all, because flabby toleration of this arrogant defiance of the President's September warning would have automatically devalued to zero-minus all his past warnings to the Soviets about Berlin and every other world problem.

A PASSIVE response to this new challenge would in fact have invited an immediate Soviet attack on Berlin's freedom, and the kind of naked, carelessly defiant Soviet attack, moreover, that would leave no alternative except retaliation with H-bombs on the Soviet Union.

The English New Statesman and Nation one argued that the Korean war was all our fault, because our prior disarmament had in effect assured the Soviets that they could launch an aggression in Korea with impunity. In a twisted sort of way there was more validity in this argument than in most New Statesman arguments.

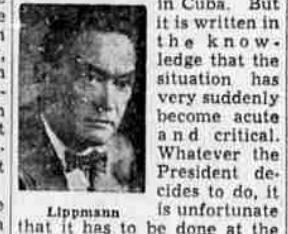
The argument's application in the present case, to Berlin as well as to all the other places the Soviets would like to have a crack at, is only too clear and apparent. Hence the stand has been taken. The brave and necessary thing has been done.

What riposte may follow, none can say at this writing. But all must give thanks that the challenge was not shirked, and all must pray, too, that the Kremlin at last clearly understands the American determination not to falter or submit, which the acceptance of the challenge so plainly implies.

Today & Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann
 (c) New York Herald Tribune Syndicate

CRISIS AND THIS ELECTION



This article is written before any official statement about the latest developments in Cuba. But it is written in the knowledge that the situation has very suddenly become acute and critical. Whatever the President decides to do, it is unfortunate that it has to be done at the height of an election campaign, and particularly of this one. For this campaign has been singularly sterile as a preparation to understand the grave problems in which they are profoundly involved. That ought not to be the case. We ought to be an educated and informed democracy.

The voters are being talked to by the President and the ex-President, by the two leaders who for the ten years since the Korean war have had the highest responsibility and who have had access to the most intimate knowledge of the facts. Yet neither of them, I submit, has ever tried to explain to the people the dimensions of the Cuban problem and of the Berlin problem.

The education of the people, which must be the foundation of policy, has been left to politicians outside the Administration and to editors, reporters, and commentators, all of us unauthorized and only partially and intermittently informed. The two national leaders have refrained from candid and free exposition of the issues and they have, in fact, talked down to the voters as if truth were too strong a meat for Americans to digest.

since the middle of the 1950's. It was under President Eisenhower — through no fault of his own — that the United States' nuclear monopoly came to an end. This development is reshaping the whole complex of power politics throughout the world. It was under President Eisenhower — again through no fault of his own — that the United States ceased to be an inexhaustible creditor country and became increasingly unable, therefore, to call the tune and pay the piper.

Moreover, it was under General Eisenhower — in the main because of his personal convictions about economic theory — that the American economy was throttled down to a rate of expansion which is just about the lowest in the capitalist world.

These three developments are having enormous consequences. But General Eisenhower does not mention them in his speeches, and he talks as if nothing that we need be concerned about had happened while he was in the White House.

EXCEPT FOR veiled phrases to informed insiders, President Kennedy — presumably in order to avoid a debate with General Eisenhower — barely mentions, and never dwells upon, the realities of the changed world which he came upon in 1961. Mr. Kennedy has talked a little about economic growth. He has been much preoccupied with the position of the dollar. He has rightly and effectively built up our military power.

But he has never fully explained to the people how the loss of nuclear monopoly, even though we are still much the stronger military power, is affecting the whole worldwide commitments which were proclaimed by President Truman and formalized by Secretary Dulles.

For example: When we still possessed a nuclear monopoly, we were an irresistible power in the sense that we could destroy without being hurt. Then it was possible to encircle the Soviet Union with military bases usable for offensive action. But when the nuclear monopoly came to an end, then the encircling nations like Turkey, and then Paris and London and Bonn, and finally the United States itself, became vulnerable. Then the advance bases began to become liabilities.

THE man who mutters that "90 per cent of modern art is trash" forgets that 90 per cent of old art was trash, too, but time has winnowed out the bulk of it; indeed, it might justly be said that 90 per cent of all art (whether painting, writing, or music) is trash and eventually forgotten.

Worries cannot be willed away by consciously refusing to acknowledge them — they must be pulled up by the roots and examined in the light, not pushed down deeper into the unconscious, where they only do darker mischief by disguising themselves in some bizarre manner.

As the striking power of both sides increases in this cold war, it becomes more likely that the war will turn hot; for, as the British physicist and Nobel Prize winner, P. M. S. Blackett, has observed: "Once a nation pledges its safety to an absolute weapon, it becomes emotionally essential to believe in an absolute enemy."

Candidates Night Stated in Ashland

Ashland — Gerald J. Scannell, Ashland attorney, has announced that a group of Ashland Democrats will sponsor a candidates night at the Mark Antony hotel in Ashland, Saturday, Oct. 27, between 8 and 10 p.m.

Scannell said Ashland city candidates also are invited.

Bob Duncan, Democratic candidate for Congress from the fourth district, will be featured, Scannell said, and will be given the opportunity to make remarks before the group.

Coffee and refreshments will be served, and the public will be given the opportunity of meeting all state, county and local candidates.

Scannell commented that almost all local, state, district and county candidates had accepted the invitation. He urged Ashland residents to attend and meet the candidates pointing out that election day is less than two weeks away.



"Is he a Democrat, a Republican, an ultra-Liberal or an ultra-Conservative...?"