

Overhead Utilities Hazardous

The great storm of Columbus Day, 1962, will be long remembered by residents of those portions of Oregon which took the brunt of the destructive blow.

The Other Road

No one will ever be able to tally the full dollar cost of the storm, but it probably will exceed considerably the preliminary estimate of \$170,000,000, if all direct and indirect costs and expenses are included.

One of the major costs, of course, is borne by the utility companies which have spent two weeks and millions of dollars repairing electric and telephone lines.

THIS has led to a revival of the long-standing suggestion that such utility lines be run underground, as are water and sewer connections.

Both the Oregonian and the Oregon Labor Press have taken up the cudgels on behalf of underground utility lines, the Oregonian with restraint, the Labor Press with vehemence.

The Labor Press said, in part:

"As Oregon digs out, slowly and heroically, from the most disastrous storm in her history, no one has pointed to the most obvious lesson of the big blow:

"It is not only stupid to hang all those wires over our heads, it is almost criminal to do so.

"The overhead jungle of poles and crossarms and wires and cables and transformers and guy lines and insulators long ago transformed our lovely city into an eyesore of ugliness . . .

"We did not realize, until now, that the overhead jungle is worse than ugly. It is also extremely vulnerable and dangerous.

"Putting wires underground, they told us, would be ruinously expensive on our light and telephone bills.

"They did not explain why it is perfectly practical to bring water and gas into our houses in rigid pipes, but impossible to bring us electricity and telephone service in flexible underground cables.

"They did not tell us why it is easy to remove sewage from our houses in pipes that are not only rigid but dependent upon gravity — yet terribly expensive to bring our electric and telephone utilities in underground cables that are non-rigid and not dependent upon the slope of the ground . . .

"Now would be a good time for the electric and telephone companies to answer one simple question: "Why don't you put the wires underground, out of harm's way, where they belong?"

AN ARTICLE in the Portland Reporter also went into the subject of underground utilities. It pointed out that utility firms are willing to put them underground if the customers are willing to pay the extra cost involved.

But the companies also point out that maintenance of underground lines is both more difficult and expensive than overhead lines; that while overhead lines are susceptible to storms, branches, falling trees, birds, and so on, underground lines are more susceptible to floods, washouts, careless excavation and shifting earth.

The time is coming, we believe, when considerations of safety, attractiveness and damage will move more and more lines underground. We hope so. — E. A.

Restudy Civil Defense

Still another aftermath of the storm has been a widespread demand for a reappraisal of civil defense.

In some areas the CD office functioned as a liaison and coordinating agency; in others it didn't function at all, let alone as an effective force in preventing damage, providing emergency information and instruction, or aiding in communications.

The storm tended to prove that existing, full-time, professional agencies such as city and state police, sheriffs departments, fire departments, and city and state roads and highway crews, functioned well. Everyone knew what to do and how to do it, and if one key man was unavailable, another was already trained to step into his duties.

JACKSON county was spared the worst effects of the storm, but in the Willamette valley and along the coast, whole areas were completely cut off, with both communications and transportation unavailable.

If a storm can create such havoc and human misery, what would be the result of nuclear warfare? And whose responsibility would it be to coordinate the services designed to save lives and property, and direct rescue and evacuation work?

If civil defense proved to be so ineffective in a storm disaster, what could it do in the far more disastrous event of warfare?

THESE are the questions that are being asked, and they deserve some real consideration.

The National Guard functioned fairly effectively in some situations, because it was organized and trained. Perhaps civil defense should be organized so that a corps of trained men would be available on call, if National Guardsmen are unavailable.

Civil defense now is mostly a paper organization, one that would take some time to flesh out and become effective in case of a major emergency or disaster. The storm has shown that it didn't — couldn't — perform the role for which it is designed on short notice.

A detailed review of civil defense organization certainly seems in order now. — E. A.

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.

Since his entire service with the Sheriff's office was less than eight years, and he commenced employment as a rookie in 1946, how can it be honestly stated that he has been Chief Deputy for the Jackson County Sheriff for a period of eight years?

At the Shady Cove Candidates Fair this man stated that he was Chief Deputy for a period of five years. But thereafter he continued to distribute literature claiming eight years as Chief Deputy, and in later meetings had gone back to the eight year claim.

Since this candidate has continuously engaged in the business of selling automobiles since 1954 and has had no employment in law enforcement for the past years, it is difficult to understand how he considers himself qualified to assume the duties of Sheriff.

I believe Mr. Leigh owes the voters of Jackson county an explanation of his misleading campaign literature.

Mrs. David D. Legg (Republican) 502 South Peach st. Medford

Thanks to Morse To the Editor: At a meeting of District 7, Veterans of World War One, which consists of the following named barracks: Camp White 14, Grants Pass 27, Cave Junction 146, Roseburg 176, Medford 540, South Umpqua 575, Ashland 1268 and Rogue River 1835, the record of the several members of the U. S. Senate as to their actions on veterans' legislation was studied.

The actions of the senior senator from Oregon, the Hon. Wayne Morse, were cited at this meeting, whose attendance was in excess of 200 his record showing that, on veterans' legislation, he has consistently, throughout his entire 18 years in the Senate, been on the side of the veterans. This includes his presentation of a resolution calling for establishment of a Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, similar to the present, and functioning House committee headed by Rep. Teague.

Also his co-sponsorship of another for the same Senate action.

This is only a small part of the total of Senator Morse's championing of veterans' benefit bills, including his bill for additional allowance for constant care and attendance for invalid veterans not hospitalized.

The assembled group went on record: Resolved; That on Oct. 21, 1962, in Ashland, Ore., District 7, Veterans of World War One, place itself on record as expressing thanks to Senator Wayne Morse for his efforts, by amendment to the Appropriations Bill for State, Justice and Commerce Departments, to obtain passage of his bill, S 2985, calling for reasonable, adequate pensions for veterans of World War One, also expressing gratitude to the Senator for his excellent talks on behalf of the veterans on this occasion, as well as on many previous occasions.

Patrick Graham Medford Barracks Veterans of WW1 Medford

White Buck Deer To the Editor: We learned quite recently from a visitor from Smith River, Del Norte county, Calif., that a white buck albino deer had often been observed by the citizens adjacent to Smith River, just prior to the 1962 hunting season.

Unfortunately, the albino buck deer was never seen again by anyone since the closing of the California deer hunting season.

Herz Kissinger 222 South Riverside ave. Medford

Confusion Corners To the Editor: Over a century ago, the people of Konigsburg created a formidable problem when they built seven bridges in their city, in such a way that no one could cross all of them without backtracking over at least one.

Folks have puzzled over this dilemma for many years; but, at last, someone has conceived a ploy, laid out at the intersection of Agate Road and Crater Lake Highway, that would leave the good Konigsburg Burgers gasping for breath. Here, an already complicated interchange has been made more difficult through the addition of a spur road, without removing the one it was meant to replace.

Token barriers and signs were put up, of course, to indicate the new route, but what are such puny deterrents as wood and tin to the resourcefulness of determined motorists?

The signs were ignored from the outset, and the barriers were soon ground to the pavement, with the result that, now, one needs eyes for every conceivable direction, except up, if one would cross this labyrinthine in wattle safety. The construction, obviously, was intended to lessen danger. However, the only accomplishment has been to firm a conviction in the mind of the user, threading this Cretan Maze, that he has been lured into a potential booby-trap.

If this deference to expediency now stands in its final form, I believe the only fair thing would be for the Highway Commission to provide Seeing Eye dogs for bemused commuters. Better yet, the intersection could be excavated and filled with water, thus giving the county additional revenue from the ferry boat concession.

I was never able to work out the Konigsburg Bridge puzzle, but I did think of a dandy name for the place I have been trying to describe. If you are out driving some Sunday and come to a spot designated "Confusion Corners," you will know the Highway people have agreed with me. Or, perhaps you would prefer the name, "Anacronistic Alley."

Harvey Robinson, 103 North Central ave., Medford.

Questions for Thornton To the Editor: Candidate Thornton's recent reference to timber tax measures passed by the 1961 Democratic-controlled Legislature further reveals his ignorance of state government.

Thornton is quoted as having said "three timber tax bills passed by the 1961 Legislature permitted large blocks of timber land to be taken off the tax rolls."

All three bills are forest conservation measures, for they provide for long-range taxation of standing timber and encourage sustained-yield harvest of the forest products. Contrary to Thornton's charges, they apply to small as well as large timber owners, including those who operate farm wood-lots.

Prior to passage of these bills, the timber tax laws were such that a "cut out and get out" method of timber harvest was encouraged. Now all timberland owners can afford to engage in orderly harvest practices, and trees may be allowed to grow to maturity.

Thornton is either uninformed or is deliberately misleading the public, for under the provisions of these three bills no timber land is removed from the tax rolls, as anyone can learn by consulting with the State Tax Com-

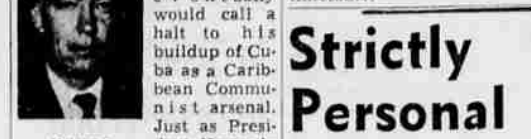
mission or local assessors. The taxes on standing timber are merely spread over a period of years to permit orderly management of the vital resource. In the year of harvest, heavy taxes are collected.

Rep. W. O. (Bun) Kelsay (D-Roseburg) has recently stated his pride at having authored or co-authored each of these bills — pointing out that they were supported and passed by the Legislature in a bi-partisan manner.

Thus, it may be seen that Thornton's charges are totally false.

Theories Vary as to Russia's Motives In Cuban Build-Up; Reds Have Worries

By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign News Analyst Since Nikita Khrushchev is a realist and a good tactician, he must have foreseen at least the possibility that the United States eventually would call a halt to his buildup of Cuba as a Caribbean Communist arsenal.



foresee a possible Soviet retaliatory move against Berlin and took steps to forestall it, so Khrushchev must also have considered his next step. To believe otherwise would be to believe the Soviet leader totally incapable of logic and so to increase the danger of world nuclear disaster.

iff's office were terminated in November of 1953. Th first record of employment of any kind, on the part of the candidate, commenced on March 15, 1946, which was several years before there was even any designated position as Chief Deputy Sheriff.

Since his entire service with the Sheriff's office was less than eight years, and he commenced employment as a rookie in 1946, how can it be honestly stated that he has been Chief Deputy for the Jackson County Sheriff for a period of eight years?

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A number of reasons, all speculative, have been advanced for the Soviet course of action in Cuba. The island now is estimated to have at least \$200 million worth of Soviet arms, including nuclear carrying missiles.

The simplest theory is that the weapons would make easier the export of Castro's revolution to other Latin American nations by violent means.

Another is that Khrushchev intended to use Cuba to increase his bargaining position on Berlin.

A third is that a Soviet base in Cuba might make the United States more agreeable to Soviet demands that foreign bases all over the world be eliminated.

In all three there may be some validity.

Washington Report

By William S. White (c) United Feature Syndicate

CLEAN AIR BLOWING Washington — The cold but clean air of danger stoutly recognized and coolly met blows through Washington now that this government at last confronts the moment of truth with honesty and honor.

The proclamation of the Kennedy document, the United States of America will retreat no more. It may mean war with the Soviet Union — if the Soviet Union refuses to draw back from the preparation of nuclear aggression in this hemisphere.

It means that, come what may, we will tolerate no broadening of the offensive Soviet lodgment in Castro Cuba.

It means that the years of bowing our heads and our vital interests to "world opinion," informed or uninformed, held in good faith or bad faith, have come at last to a close.

It means that the United States, having so long been sought a peace that would not come, now rises in power and purpose in resolve to die on its feet if it cannot win a life of dignity and justice on its knees. Through three administrations — Truman's, Eisenhower's, Kennedy's — we have gone the last mile in patience, in hope endlessly denied. We are not yet done with talking and appealing, and rightly not done. But we are done with only talking and appealing. Now, we shall, if necessary, act and act yet again.

NO DISCOUNT the perils would be the bravado of the child; but not to have taken our stand would have been an unmanly betrayal of this nation.

All these words describe the large sense of the partial blockade of Cuba. And the meaning, is far less significant than President Kennedy's accompanying warning that any nuclear attack from Cuba anywhere in the Western Hemisphere will be met with a retaliatory American strike on the one true seat of the world's infection, the Soviet Union.

But other things remain to be said. Happily, Kennedy has now abandoned the small-bore partisan politics of a Congressional election campaign which, for the sake of something called "Medical Care," had threatened to compromise national unity in an hour of unexampled gravity. The people are now drawn together in that concert which alone can see us through, if anything can. Only the smallest of partisans, Democrats or Republicans, are talking "politics" any more.

BUT THE President also needs now to dismiss from

his administration those who pressed upon him, then new and untried in the White House, the refusal and adequate American military support to the patriots' invasion of Castro Cuba in April of 1961. Rightly backed, it might have ended this nightmare long ago.

Dismiss them he should, not to seek devils for the past but as a necessary reassurance to the nation that he is really done with listening to the decent but timid men who have helped bring us to the edge of catastrophe. It is not their motives but their minds — and the minds of all those unofficial experts who grandly ridiculed the fear of Communism in Cuba and assured the country even later that Cuba was only a "peripheral" problem — which are now shown so mortally wrong.

We need now a government of national unity free of the symbols of past weakness, free of those whose one policy, however elegantly expressed, has always come to the same: Don't act, don't act anywhere.

CAN ADLAI Stevenson, not questioning his patriotism and devotion, really continue to speak for all this nation at the United Nations? Can Chester Bowles, not questioning his patriotism and devotion, continue usefully to "advise" the president on foreign affairs? Can such men effectively present to the world, with all the hard candor now required, the terrible and majestic truth that the United States is at last resolved to do its duty, U.N. or no U.N., "world opinion" or no "world opinion"?

A good, tough-minded authentic Republican should replace Stevenson at the U. N., replace him all the way. Kennedy has now freed his policy from those who would always talk but never do. He needs now to free himself — to become the real John F. Kennedy — from the sugar-candy pseudo "liberalism" of associates who have brought his administration and this country to within rocket shot of an enemy base 90 miles away.

To the country — all the country — he owes this much; just as the country — all the country — now owes him its total support.

Grants Pass Woman Safe in Bay Area Grants Pass — Local relatives have been notified that Mrs. Mary S. Silkanen, 18, of 1031 Southwest 1st, and her son are safe in San Francisco.

She had been reported missing by relatives after friends in San Francisco said that she had not appeared there.

In a telephone call to her parents this week, Mrs. Silkanen said that she had stayed with other friends, after the family she had originally gone to visit was not home.

Algerians Oppose Cuban Blockade

Algiers (AP) — About 4,000 Algerians demonstrated noisily in downtown Algiers Thursday night against the U. S. blockade of Cuba. But no violence was reported.

The mob turned out at the call of the General Union of Algerian Workers and union leaders harangued the meeting.

The crowd brandished placards bearing slogans such as "Yankees Go Home," "Cuba Yes, Yankees No," and "The Algerian and Cuban Revolutions Will Triumph."

A resolution calling on Algerian stevedores to "take steps to see that ships bound for Cuba are rapidly loaded" was approved by acclamation.

Building Trades Group Endorses Bowers in CP The Medford Building Trades council this week endorsed Cal Bowers for Central Point mayor, according to Jerry Christian, council secretary.

Bowers is the second mayor candidate endorsed by the council this fall. Last month the council endorsed Jimmy Dunlevy as candidate for Medford.

"You're hearing 'em with that speech—tell 'em what you would do about Cuba if you had a chance . . ."

