

# Howard Morgan Gaining Reputation as Chief Dissenter in Washington

By A. ROBERT SMITH  
Mail Tribune  
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Washington (Special) — It is beginning to look like Oregon has sent another Wayne Morse to Washington, D.C. He doesn't have bushy eyebrows or a professional background, but Howard Morgan is emerging as the chief dissenter in the federal regulatory agencies.

It was in this very role that Wayne Morse attained a national, not to say statewide, reputation during the Roosevelt administration when he served on the on the War Labor Board. Created to settle labor-management differences to avoid war production tieups, the WLB conducted hearings and rendered decisions — and Dean Morse gained stature and fame, notably for a dissent in a case in which the coal miners got a more favorable wage contract with a strike weapon than others were receiving.

When Morgan was appointed to the FPC in the spring of 1961 by President Kennedy, it was generally assumed he would take a sympathetic view toward public power or government development of rivers in disputes involving private power applications for licenses to build hydroelectric dams. But it seemed likely he would be but one of several with this viewpoint as the new Democratic administration filled out vacancies on the five-man Commission.

Inquired at White House  
Morgan, in fact, inquired at the White House before taking office about the probable make-up of the new Commission because, as he put it, "I didn't come here to write brilliant dissenting opinions." He was assured his viewpoint was unlikely to be a minority one.

Since then, Morgan has dissented in three instances involving private vs. public issues in which the FPC majority demonstrated no sympathy for public or government power development. In no instances were these major decisions: two involved approval of the issuance of securities by private utilities, the third whether the government should be allowed to intervene in a Colorado river dam case.

But they may promise more vigorous dissents by Morgan when the FPC does decide some of the big cases now pending. He need not dissent on many cases to gain a reputation as a dissenter. Morse wrote only 10 dissents in the 118 cases in which he rendered opinions. What counts more is the magnitude of the cases.

Tenure May Be Brief  
Whatever may lie ahead within the FPC, Morgan's outspoken views are likely to mark him for whatever political course he chooses upon leaving the FPC. Because he was appointed to an unexpired term, which expires next June, Morgan's tenure may be brief.

at Democratic state chairman 10 years ago.  
Morgan wanted to run for governor in this recent election, but when Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton announced his candidacy Morgan decided to bide his time. He figured, with most observers, that in a three-way clash with Thornton and Walter Pearson for the nomination, Pearson would take it. In the



MADE MOVIE HISTORY—Veteran actor Charles Laughton, 63, famed for tragic and comic roles, died Saturday after a long bout with cancer. Laughton, who made movie history in such films as "Mutiny on the Bounty" and "The Private Life of

ensuing two-way contest, Thornton defeated Pearson. Laughton lost badly to Gov. Mark Hatfield.  
Tumbled Holman  
When Wayne Morse had been on the WLB only a short time, he was tempted to try for the Senate against Sen. Charles McNary in 1942 but decided to bide his time. Two years later, after becoming

Henry the Eighth", appeared with his wife, actress Elsa Lanchester, on the stage in a revue "Elsa Lanchester—Herself" in 1961. They are shown above in a scene from the revue. (UPI)

a headline name, he successfully tumbled Sen. Rufus Holman and has held that office ever since.  
Morgan's chances for governor in 1962 would probably have been about as good as Morse's chances against McNary in 1942. Both made prudent political decisions, and stayed on in Washington to render more dissents.  
Morgan may not be consci-

ous of following the Morse pattern, but he is a strong admirer of the senator and they share many philosophical convictions and some personal attributes. Morse would probably be Morgan's strongest ally and campaigner in any future bid for public office. At 48, Morgan may not relish the role of lonely dissenter — but he doesn't shrink from it, and if the Morse precedent holds, there is no telling where it may lead him from here.

## Charles Laughton Succumbs After Long Bout With Cancer

Hollywood — (UPI) — Award winning actor Charles Laughton is dead.

The rotund, 63-year-old actor lost his long battle with cancer Saturday night.

Actress Elsa Lanchester, his wife since 1929, was at his bedside when Laughton died in his sleep.

The film and stage star's brother, Frank Laughton, said Sunday funeral arrangements were pending because Miss Lanchester, who had kept up a cheerful front during the long illness, was "taking the death quite hard."

Laughton had been fighting the losing battle with cancer for nearly a year. He entered Cedars of Lebanon hospital July 30 but on Nov. 30 was granted his last wish — to die at home.

A family spokesman said Laughton was "feeling no pain toward the end. He had been in a coma for several hours and was resting quietly under sedation before that."

Laughton was mourned by his friends as a great talent and a great friend.

"Charles was a great grizzly bear and he vainly tried to hide his big, pink plush heart," said actress Agnes Moorehead when she learned of his death.

"I doubt if Mr. Laughton had any foes," actress Joan Crawford said. "He always frightened me and other people in our industry, but only by his great talent."

"Spartacus" with Laughton in 1960. "The modern trend in acting is to underplay and, as a result, many actors come up doing nothing. But when Laughton was on the stage or screen, you knew it."

Become U.S. Citizens  
"A director couldn't hope to direct a Laughton picture," said Lewis Milestone, director of Laughton in "Jamaica Inn" in 1938. "The best he could hope for was to referee."

Laughton and his wife became United States citizens in 1950.

"We have been wanting to very much for a long time," he said. "I took the step with the deepest religious convictions that this is what I want to do."

The actor had no illusion about himself. The son of an innkeeper at Scarborough, England, where he was born July 1, 1899, Laughton asked for the character roles in which he became famous.

"On the screen I generally have been cast, mostly by my choice, as a wicked, blustering or untidy character. Now I am ready to admit that in real life Charles Laughton is all of those things."

"I often bluster. I find it gets me my own way. I am notoriously wicked — especially to bores."

"I purposely go in for villainous roles on the screen to find an outlet for the evil aspects of my character. They appear in my own life considerably diluted. This makes life a lot easier on my wife."

But contrary to what he said, Laughton was known to his friends for his gentleness and good humor.

On stage he was of the best tradition of the English theater in which he was trained — the master of any role.

His performances ranged from the delightful butler in "Ruggles of Red Gap," the exquisite sadism of Captain Bligh in "Mutiny on the Bounty," the gluttonous lust of "The Private Life of Henry VIII," to the beautifully grotesque Quasimodo in "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

His Henry VIII brought him an Academy Award as the best actor of 1933.

His last film, "Advise and Consent," drew praise for his portrayal of the devious but essentially upright senator from the Deep South, Seab Cooley.

What later became virtually a new career was launched by Laughton in hospitals filled with wounded in World War II.

He read great books aloud and after the war organized book reading tours — appearing on stage simply sitting on a stool.

Woman Heads GOP Central Committee  
Vancouver, Wash. — (UPI) — Mrs. M. A. Pithoud has been elected chairman of the Clark County Republican Central committee. She succeeds Alfred Henderson.

MAN BITES LAW  
Jerusalem, Israel — (UPI) — Rahamin Rejwan was sentenced to 18 months in jail Sunday for biting a policeman on the leg when the officer tried to stop him from beating his wife.



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