

Medford Mail Tribune

Everyone in Southern Oregon Reads The Mail Tribune... Published Daily except Saturday by MEDFORD PRINTING CO. 33 North Fir St., Ph. 772-4141

Subscription Rates: By Mail - In Advance. Daily and Sunday - 1 year \$18.00. Daily and Sunday - 6 mos. 10.00. Daily and Sunday - 3 mos. 5.00. Sunday Only - One Year \$3.00. Single Copy (Mailed) 20c

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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.

10 YEARS AGO: Feb. 7, 1953 (Thursday). The Ashland city council will consider the possibility of adding fluoride to the city's water supply at its February 17 meeting.

20 YEARS AGO: Feb. 7, 1943 (Tuesday). Fire believed started by short in electrical wiring results in \$15,000 damage to local feed and seed company warehouse.

30 YEARS AGO: Feb. 7, 1933 (Thursday). A. W. Walker named Jackson county probation officer.

40 YEARS AGO: Feb. 7, 1923 (Friday). F. Roy Davis, Medford, elected president of Crater Lake Rod and Gun club.

50 YEARS AGO: Feb. 7, 1913 (Sunday). John H. Thompson, resident of Jacksonville area since 1879 and a veteran of the Confederate army, dies at home.

What's Your I.Q.? Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good.

Sense and Sentiment

We have, we must confess, mixed feelings about the proposed consolidation of the Medford and Phoenix-Talent school districts.

There are some dangers in consolidation. The idea of a big school district being a good one simply because it is big is not valid, any more than the reverse is true.

Too, the larger the district, the more diluted is the control over it by the patron and taxpayer; each board member represents a far larger number of people.

BUT each consolidation proposal has to be judged on its own merits, as well as on philosophical considerations.

Here two pertinent factors concerning the present proposal:

1. Both districts have good educational programs and good administration. But the Medford district (which would be the survivor if consolidation is effected) has a far broader educational program, offering 91 courses, compared to 52 in Phoenix-Talent.

2. The Medford district has always gone out of its way to see that all its patrons have full information about the problems the district is facing, about future plans, about facts which have a bearing on the future.

THE report in question recommended that a new school be built in the Phoenix-Talent district in southwest Medford, on Argonne ave., to serve the large and growing number of children in that area.

The proposed site for the school is within eye-sight—half a mile or less—of the Hoover school of the Medford district.

This costly duplication of facilities so close to each other gives the cautious taxpayer pause. The total building program recommended for the Phoenix-Talent district is in the neighborhood of \$900,000—another fact the school board has been rather close-mouthed about.

IF CONSOLIDATION is effected, the present board of the Medford district would assume control of the enlarged district. (At subsequent board elections, residents of the Phoenix-Talent area would be eligible for election; prior to that it is customary to ask some such to serve on an advisory board.)

Last month the Medford board issued a statement concerning the consolidation, and it said, in event of the merger being approved, it would be "reasonable to assume" that:

1. The elementary pupils would remain essentially as they are currently enrolled. (Except, presumably, the students in southeast Medford would go to Hoover school, rather than by bus to Phoenix.)

2. The junior high students would continue as presently enrolled, unless it was thought advisable to convert the Phoenix high school into a junior high school.

3. In the event of consolidation there would probably be two senior high schools established. Phoenix senior high school students would then enter the nearest of the two high schools.

CONCERNING Point 3 above, the board added:

"It is the plan . . . to bring shortly to the voters a bond issue for the construction of a new high school. In keeping with the large high school concept, it is intended that the new school be built for 2,000 pupils. If there is no change in the size of the Medford district, the new high school will serve the entire district. Should consolidation with the Phoenix-Talent district occur, the pupil load will be such as to make the operation of two high schools necessary. Senior high school students in the Phoenix-Talent area would be transported only as far as the nearest senior high school."

As for financial considerations, the bonding and taxation levels of the two districts are so nearly similar that little change for individual patrons would be expected in event of consolidation.

The Medford board has taken no position, pro or con, on the consolidation proposal. But it has, after due study, termed it a "timely, sound and feasible" plan.

WE CAN understand the reluctance of Phoenix-Talent patrons to merger with the larger Medford system, thus losing part of their "identity" as a separate district, and, to some measure, control of their own schools.

We would not be at all surprised if many of them vote against consolidation.

However, it is our contention that the decision should not be based on sentiment, or even on the degree of the somewhat nebulous "control" that patrons have over the operation of any school district. The decision should be based on more important and fundamental things.

THE most important of these are: —The educational opportunities and well-being for the largest number of children, no matter where located.

—Long-range economy of operation. —Efficiency and responsiveness of administration, and this includes keeping patrons and taxpayers informed.

In each of these three, it seems to us that the weight lies on the side of consolidation. While the issues are not all black and white, the merger simply makes sense.—E.A.

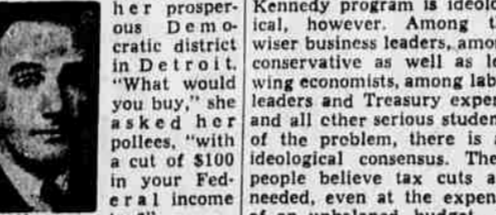
"How Long Do You Think Before They'll Crack Up?"



Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop (c) New York Herald Tribune Syndicate

TAX POLITICS: Washington—Not long ago, Rep. Martha Griffiths sent out several thousand questionnaires to her prosperous Democratic district in Detroit.



Maybe the sum was disappointing, although this is about the kind of tax relief President Kennedy's tax reduction and reform program will give to lower middle income families. At any rate, among the thousand or so people who answered Rep. Griffiths, over 600 said they did not want a tax cut.

Some persons in this large anti-tax cut majority said they desired no relief themselves, but suggested tax cuts for members of more hard-pressed groups, such as the very old and young people just starting in life.

HENCE Rep. Mills advised Secretary Dillon to give special emphasis to the government's desire to cut spending, and to justify tax cuts on the ground that the American tax system had passed the point of diminishing returns.

THE Griffiths poll, though a mere straw in the wind, like all polls, has considerable significance for two special reasons. First, it has been circulated in the crucial Ways and Means committee of the House of Representatives, of which Rep. Griffiths is the only woman member.

Secondly, the Griffiths poll is another rather characteristic item in a considerable body of evidence that the old American political rules about the vote-catching powers of tax cuts are no longer reliable guides.

THE powerful chairman of the Ways and Means committee, Rep. Wilbur Mills, is known to have commented on the Griffiths poll that in his Arkansas district the answers would have been at least 80 per cent anti-tax cut. After the Eisenhower-George Humphrey tax cut of more than \$7 billion in 1954, the Republicans lost 19 seats in the House and one in the Senate.

THESE are only a few bits and pieces in a mass of data, all pointing in the same direction. For this very reason, the President's tax reduction and reform plan would not now command a majority in the relatively sympathetic House Ways and Means Committee, despite the immense supposed bait of a net tax cut of close to \$10 billion.

FOR purposes of comparison, let's now take a look at Oregon—where the comparative figures look like this: Budget \$405,000,000. Population 1,600,000. Per Capita Tax \$225.00.

THE California budget for the current biennium is roughly eight times Oregon's budget for the same period. California's POPULATION is roughly TEN TIMES Oregon's population.

INTERESTING? The answer is YES. But you haven't heard it all. Let's take a look now at the figures for the U.S.A. as a whole—the FEDERAL PICTURE. It looks like this: Federal Budget \$100,000,000,000 U.S.

AMONG the 40 million plus tax payers, there is a tiny minority of about 300,000 who will lose more by the reforms than they gain by the reductions. Most of these will lose very little, yet these are generally individuals with much leverage. And the

France Continues Aid to Many African Nations; Is Tightening Ties With Them

By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign News Analyst

Back in 1961, in Algeria, it struck this reporter as an incongruity that even in the midst of bloody rebellion French-built schools continued to rise in the back-country and new industrial structures to go up along the Algiers waterfront.

Some months later, in the new black African republic of Mali, it also seemed noteworthy that the only real link between scattered tribesmen was a common knowledge of the French language.

In the Quai d'Orsay in Paris, officials of the French Foreign Ministry are fond of remarking that France devotes more than twice as much of its gross national product to the aid of underdeveloped countries as does the United States.

These are factors upon which President Charles de Gaulle leans heavily as he moves to tighten French ties with Africa even as he moves to implement his grand design for Europe.

Paris dispatches say that De Gaulle's visions for Africa could bring him into new conflict with the United States and Britain.

Nucleus of De Gaulle's Africa would be the French-speaking community of new African nations into which France has poured both money and lives and with which she has maintained remarkably stable and friendly relations.

Even Guinea, the lone dissenter who rejected membership in the French community, shows signs of returning at least partially to the fold.

President Sekou Toure, who once said Guinea would "prefer poverty in freedom to riches in slavery," is expected to visit France this year.

The French record of aid to its past and present overseas territories is impressive. Nearly 40,000 French teachers work in countries scattered throughout the world. She built three universities in Algeria and contributed to higher education in Morocco and Tunisia.

More than 20,000 students from developing countries attend universities in France. In 1961, more than 10,000 African students were enrolled in French universities, engineering schools and business schools.

Since the beginning of the century, France has built more than 190,000 miles of roads in Africa south of the Sahara, and on both sides of the Sahara nearly 10,000 miles of railroads. There have been, in addition, bridges, tunnels, dams and around 30 modern ports such as at Algiers, Casablanca and Conakry.

D. De Gaulle's allies may have reason for annoyance with him. But De Gaulle also has his arguments.

... 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.

Protect Shrines: To the Editor: Do you know what foreign organization has arranged a \$44 million loan to erect an apartment building in Washington, D. C.?

Do you know that they plan a building which will rise to a height in excess of the 155 foot Washington Memorial, and higher than the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials?

Do you know there is a zoning ordinance which prevents the constructions of buildings which will overshadow our national shrines?

Do you know that a so-called nonprofit organization is planning an attempt to amend the zoning ordinance to allow the erection of this apartment building?

If you feel that our national shrines should be protected, write now to: The Board of Zoning Adjustment, Samuel Scrivener, Jr., Chairman, District Building, Washington, D. C., V. L. Armstrong, 714 Park Medford

Similar Bills Defeated: To the Editor: Would like to commend E.A. for his forthright and timely editorial (2-5) in which he shows up the inconsistency of a new bill now before our State legislature ostensibly proclaiming Sunday as a day for family rest and play, and forbidding the sale of certain articles on that day.

In the last few weeks similar bills have been defeated in Montana, Idaho and Utah, and it is hoped that our own state will do so promptly and overwhelmingly.

While the proponents of the bill may stoutly deny it, calling it a health measure, it should be readily seen that it could open the way for definite steps toward the union of church and state, which our constitution and the Word of God plainly forbids.

Notwithstanding Mr. Cuddy's recent counsel to refrain from quoting Scripture in these columns I would like to include Christ's words regarding this matter here: "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesars, and unto God the things which are God's." Luke 20:25.

Let's not only keep Oregon green, but free, and clean from anything which suggests coercion in matters regarding our relationship to our Maker.

Harold J. Reith, 113 Briggs Building, Shady Cove, Ore.

On Consolidation: To the Editor: I attended the public meeting last month at the courthouse, which was to air the proposed consolidation of the Talent-Phoenix

Intelligence: To the Editor: Do radio advertisers ever wonder what type of listener turns to newscasts? People that want news do not wish to be entertained at the same time. They want to be informed. Surely they have some intelligence.

When one hears "One moment please," there is no doubt about what is coming. It is a sheer waste of time and money. The interruption is annoying. The inevitable repetition is wearying.

The only intelligent persons in any community—ask them yourselves—are the members of the advertising fraternity.

David Frisch, P.O. Box 292, White City, Ore.

Spacemen and Violets: To the Editor: In reading the various letters to the editor, concerning this character, somebody named Al-Lan

Never Go Back: To the Editor: It may be helpful to many voters who are finding it difficult to decide whether or not to vote for the consolidation of Phoenix and Medford school districts for me to tell of my experience.

When I lived in the Griffin Creek district and the consolidation of our school was to be decided, many of us at first were against it. However after the consolidation was made we found the benefits were many so we would never want to go back to the previous status.

(Name on file) Rogue Valley Manor Medford

Study Bill: To the Editor: House Bill 1263 presented in the House of Representatives should be studied carefully by those people who are interested in having a voice in what is done in their communities. Annexation by cities without a vote of the people is wrong and not according to our democratic way of governing.

Mrs. Wilma Cummings, Route 3, Box 432, Medford



"What do you care? Let De Gaulle be Napoleon. You be Caesar!"