

What's Going On?

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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

March 26, 1953 (Thursday) Congress and Interior Secretary Douglas McKay have received proposals from the bureau of land resource development...

20 YEARS AGO

March 26, 1943 (Friday) Oregon to receive \$45 million for post-war roads; if approved by Congress part will be used to complete reconstruction of the Pacific highway between Medford and Eugene.

30 YEARS AGO

March 26, 1933 (Sunday) Classes in placer mining for small operation to open on Southern Pacific lot.

40 YEARS AGO

March 26, 1923 (Monday) Fiends steal the ice cream for a C. E. supper.

50 YEARS AGO

March 26, 1913 (Wednesday) City agitated by report that saloons of city are visited by minors.

What's Your I.Q.?

- Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good. 1. Name the seaway from the Great Lakes which allows access to the ocean.

What's Going On?

The Coos Bay World, in a testy editorial, declares:

"The time has come when we believe it is the interest of every citizen of the State of Oregon that he or she seriously consider just what in the blazes is going on in our state Legislature."

We have had much the same feeling—one which was not entirely dispelled by a two-day visit to Salem last week.

Now no one is going to become a legislative expert in two days. But by talking to various members and observers and other state officials, plus diligent reading of press reports about the legislature's activities, one can get some sense of what's going on.

THIS is not a peaceable and cooperative legislature. There is jealousy and bickering between House and Senate, between both of these and the Governor, and within the two houses themselves.

Clarence Barton, the Coquille Democrat who is Speaker of the House, has the most soothing view of the Legislature's progress. He says that the taxation package should be ready any day now, that it will be accepted by both House and Senate.

Others differ. One high government official, speaking not for attribution, strongly fears that higher education is going to be damaged by this legislature, and that it will be fortunate if even the governor's bone-bare budget for the colleges and universities is passed without damaging and significant cuts.

THE Coos Bay World's complaint continued:

"At no other time in the history of this state has there been a greater need for sound, calm, decisive law making. At no time in our history have we been faced with a greater budgetary problem."

In large part, we agree. As to the new constitution, we have been assured by Rep. John Dellenback, chairman of the house committee on constitutional revision, that the chances are good that a document will be passed by the legislature this year, and referred to a vote of the people.

There is one other aspect meriting consideration. What a legislature does not do is often times equally important to what it does do. In other words, killing bad legislation is as important as passing good legislation.

There have been reports of substance indicating that House and Senate committees have been inclined to let poorly drawn, inconsequential, or bad legislation die in committee.

But there is some legislation which must pass, if the state is to stay in business. The fiscal needs of the state must be realistically appraised, and the tax cloth cut to fit the fiscal need pattern.

LONG ago, we predicted that this would be one of the most difficult sessions in a long time, and we still think that prediction was valid.

Legislators, after voting themselves a hefty raise in pay, are now caught between the desire not to raise taxes—or to raise them as little and painlessly as possible—and the desire to see that state services are not starved or damaged.

Where, then, if cuts are to be made, will they be made?

A NUMBER of minor budget cuts can be made here and there throughout the budget, and some of them are being made.

One is in education, the other is in welfare. If welfare is cut materially, the legislature will be guilty of starving the needy, of cruelty to the old, and of callousness to the young and helpless.

If education is cut materially, the legislature will be guilty of short-changing our youngsters and damaging the future potential of the state.

GOVERNOR Hatfield's budget of some \$405 million is a tight one. Many think it is too tight in some areas, particularly higher education.

Granted that being a legislator is no bed of roses. But in seeking the job, and in accepting it, each member also accepted a solemn responsibility to see that the state continues as an effective servant to the people and the taxpayers.

"Pardon Us, Miss, We Have An Idea To Pep Up Our Act"



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.

A REMINDER Editor's note: We have received several communications which do not bear BOTH name and address of the writer. Letters for publication must have a name AND address to be considered for publication.

Veteran's Plight To the Editor: According to Floyd County Sheriff Joe Adams of Rome, Ga., Wilmer A. Summerville, who was honorably discharged as an Army quartermaster sergeant in June, 1919, was denied hospital care by the Veterans Administration.

Too Much To the Editor: You give too much space to Arnold Eugene Jenny.

No Wonder To the Editor: What underlies the skin of man?

Letter to Durno To the Editor and Dr. Durno: Will you run again for Congress? There is considerable enthusiasm for you to regain your old seat in Oregon's Fourth District.

WORK AND LEISURE Because I wanted a car, and it came already equipped that way, I am now driving my first automobile with power steering.

Strictly Personal By Sydney J. Harris (c) Field Enterprises, Inc.

tricity—whether in the kitchen, mowing the lawn, shoveling the snow, driving the car, and even tooling around the golf course on a mechanized cart.

But the point is that more and more of us have relinquished our control over our mechanisms. We do nothing by hand or foot that can be done by elec-

Precarious Balance At Berlin Remains; Two K's Have Other Problems at Stake

By STEWART HENSLEY United Press International Washington - (UPI) - Berlin continues to be the most critical issue dividing Russia and the West, despite its absence from the headlines in recent months.

Khrushchev is beset by the split with Communist China, which is having its repercussions among Communist parties all over the world. He is grappling with economic difficulties at home stemming from the necessity to divert more resources from agriculture and housing to military preparations.

Washington Report

By William S. White (c) United Feature Syndicate

FALLACY Washington - The harsh truth about Castro is that the more inter-American conferences are held on the subject the more ambiguous appears the policy of the United States against the chronic Caribbean danger.

NO TRUE Pan American front truly to cut off Cuba will ever be formed until the Mexicans and Brazils can be brought into it.

There is no sign that they are going to come in any time soon. In the meantime, to attempt to make a grand strategy against Castro resting solely upon the weakest countries in Latin America would be as pointless as preparing such a design against the Soviet Union within the Western Alliance based, say, upon Portugal and Holland but not Britain, France and West Germany.

So what does it all come to? All solutions for Cuba remain unsatisfactory—but some are more unsatisfactory than others. And the United States seems committed all over again to the appealing, but up to now wholly fallacious, notion that armed and militant communism can be stopped by "improving the living standards of the people."

Sylvia Porter Receives Award Sylvia Porter, whose column distributed by the Hall Syndicate appears daily in the Mail Tribune, has frequently earned awards for the columnist, has two new honors.

She was to receive the Applause Award, the most important award of the Sales Executive Club of New York, today. This honor will be given as "applause to Sylvia Porter for giving the public a better understanding of our free enterprise system—and especially of the vital role played by marketing and salesmanship."

Her other current award was presented March 19 by the Central Business District Association of Detroit—their National Award for Outstanding Performance in Communications.

TIME'S AWASTING Chicago - (UPI) - The Lief Erickson society said today it is planning a "tremendous party" for the 2003 "overdue recognition" of the 100th anniversary of the founding of America.

"Final arrangements have not been completed," President W. R. Anderson said.

ty, is due to the fact that, like Buridan's ass, we cannot decide between the two piles of hay equally close to us: the tradition of personal effort beckons us one way, and the new devices for making life easier invite us the other way.

Our central problem in the years ahead may very well turn out to be the difficult task of reconciling our beliefs with our procedures, and learning that it is impossible to keep both intact.

Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop

(c) New York Herald Tribune Syndicate

ELYSEE-OLGY Paris - Talk to four dozen Frenchmen all of them in high responsible positions in what might be called the French political community. You will then get 47 different opinions about the current plans and parties, although not about the ultimate aim of Gen. Charles de Gaulle.

Such has been this reporter's experience, at any rate. The two among the 48 who agreed with one another were both anti-Gaullist. They offered the diagnosis that de Gaulle's judgments of Europe, and of the United States and of the Soviet Union, have been abnormally warped by pride, suspicion, and success.

When each of these two lonely persons speaking with a common voice was informed that his diagnosis had support from the other man, both of them were downright furious.

But Gen. de Gaulle confides his plans and purposes to no one at all, conspicuously including the chief members of his own cabinet.

IT CAN then be seen that "Elysee-ology," as an attempt to read the mind of the chief tenant of the Elysee Palace is beginning to be called, is even less exact science than Kremlinology. Nonetheless, this reporter is now convinced that he has earlier committed a grave error, which had better be corrected now.

From the angle of vision of Washington, it appeared that Gen. de Gaulle's quasicoup d'etat in Europe really must have behind it a plan of rabid, further action. What de Gaulle did was clearly directed to establishing a kind of Gaullist hegemony of the nations of the European Common Market.

Yet it was equally clearly impossible for Gen. de Gaulle to be first in Europe, so long as, under NATO, the U. S. was still first in the defense of Europe. Hence it seemed necessary to assume that Gen. de Gaulle had a plan for liquidating the American military person in Europe at a fairly early date.

Hence what we have to worry about is not what seems so worrisome in Washington. There is no immediate prospect of a Gaullist attempt to destroy NATO, or to force American withdrawal from Europe. What we have to worry about, rather, is how to avoid faults of our own which will play too far into Gen. de Gaulle's hands.

For although de Gaulle's aim of an equal Europe is entirely sound, the trouble is that he wishes to achieve this aim against the extra-European members of the Western alliance, and quite largely at their expense. Hence the method can prove to be profoundly dangerous, even though the aim deserves our sympathy.

HE ALSO indulges in the strange pin-pricks of precedents and table placements, which seem so widely odd to Englishmen and Americans, but help him, in his opinion, to maintain his chosen posture. And in addition, while waiting for history to justify him, he merely takes advantage of tactical opportunities which may come his way by accident or by the fall of his adversaries.

HERE was the error. Despite the marked differences in diagnosis offered by leading Frenchmen, there is one central fact that can be synthesized, so to say, from the mass of conflicting testimony. The fact seems to be that Gen. de Gaulle has an aim, but he does not have a plan.

In the case of the Algerian war, for example, de Gaulle's aim from the start was certainly to heal this cancer on the French body politic. At first he tried prosecuting the war vastly more efficiently while offering the rebels a "peace of the brave" on conditions attaching Algeria closely to France.

When this did not work, he evidently concluded it was necessary to do what he had said many scores of times that he would never do. He concluded it was necessary to hand Algeria over to the F. L. N. rebels. And that was the final outcome.

In the present instance, Gen. de Gaulle's aim is once again quite clear. It is a "European Europe," standing on its own feet, in no way depending on the United States but linked on terms of complete equality with the United States in a transformed Western alliance.

AS IN the former case, the aim is not unattainable. It is both sensible and fully in accord with the long swing of history. And at this point, one recalled the remark of one of de Gaulle's former closest collaborators that the General is "with regard to the past inflexible; in the future prophetic; but in the present often detestable."

De Gaulle is "detestable" in the present precisely because he does not pursue his long-term aims by any coherent scheme of action which can be argued about or even successfully opposed. He will certainly stop anything happening which he thinks may block the subsequent attainment of an aim, just as he stopped the British from entering Europe "as an American Trojan horse," as he put it.

Yet in circumstances like the present circumstances in Europe, saying "no" when he is able to do so is de Gaulle's major form of action. Beyond this he maintains a posture—in the present instance the posture of the leading advocate and potential leader of a European uncontaminated by American influence.

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"Cuba, Cuba, Cuba! I'm sick of questions on Cuba! Sick, do you hear me, sick, sick, sick, sick, sick..."

