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Bisecting Jacksonville

Some days ago, the Jacksonville city council voted to request the state highway department to find an alternate route for its proposed relocation of Highway 238 through that community.

Why it reversed its earlier vote this week is unclear, but presumably it was because of the "take it or leave it" attitude of the highway department, which said the only choice was the route along Jackson creek, right through the middle of the community.

Faced with this ultimatum, the council decided that the new route, despite its drawbacks, was better than none. As it is, the highway follows Fifth and California streets, and the thought of heavy logging traffic along them this summer is a bleak prospect.

STILL, the affair raises some interesting questions. If, in the view of some of the nation's most respected authorities on historic sites, architecture and communities, the new road—eventually to become a four-lane highway—will damage irreparably many of the town's principal values, how is the highway department going to justify its action?

With the citizenry nearly equally divided (at least on the basis of "votes" which weren't votes at all, but merely a sampling of opinion), can the council justify a decision which will irrevocably alter the character of the town?

TOO, is it possible that other residents of the state and nation also have a stake in the future of Jacksonville, not, perhaps, quite equal to that of residents, but of a substantial nature because of the historic values there?

No detailed surveys of the other two possible routes—along the north bank of Jackson creek, and through a gap in the hills north of the cemetery—have been made; or if they have, they have not been publicized so that an intelligent choice of alternatives can be made.

Can the highway department justify its "this route or nothing" ultimatum when the pros and cons of the alternatives are unknown?

THERE are many pressures on highway commissioners and engineers—for this road, against that one, for and against proposed routes. And theirs is the legal and moral responsibility for making decisions, and for spending millions of tax dollars.

But the whole Jacksonville affair—proposed without public notice, surveyed in a hurry, rushed through a public hearing, then thrust upon the city council with an "either-or" ultimatum—leaves open to question the department's sense of the fitness of things, and of the proprieties of democratic procedure.

Personally, we don't want our tax money to be spent in cutting Jacksonville in two, and we think a whole lot of other people feel the same way.—E. A.

Giles Always Said "Noop!" It is probably not earth shaking news in Southern Oregon that Giles French has sold his newspaper, and that one of the state's most vigorous editorial voices will thus be silenced.

But in the newspaper business, in historical circles, and in politics—all of which have claimed French's attentions—the event is of considerable significance.

For Giles French—crusty, outspoken, conservative in the best sense; a prickly, thorny character who is never afraid to say "no"—is one of the state's most respected (and occasionally cussed-at) personalities.

ONE of the most vivid memories we have of French goes back to the 1945 legislature, when he was representing an Eastern Oregon constituency in the house. On roll call after roll call, the clerk's spoken "French" would be answered by a loud "Noop!" The dang legislature passed too many dang laws anyway, French thought then—and thinks today.

He later ran for Congress, and when defeated turned his talents to authorship ("The Golden Land," the story of his own Sherman county, published by the Oregon Historical Society), and to running his newspaper.

He is best known as a paragrapher, turning out a column of one-paragraph quips, comments, opinions and observations each week in the Sherman County Journal. They have been widely reprinted.

IT IS doubtful whether we ever have or ever would agree with Giles French on any political or economic matter. But our respect and affection for him are unbounded.

He is an individualist, a non-conformist, a burr under the civic saddle, a nagging conscience, and a man who holds that change for change's sake is infantile folly. Men of his kind are in short supply, sadly, in a world of men which sometimes seems to be turning into a vast sea of vanilla custard—bland, tasteless and shapeless. French was spice. We wish him well.—E. A.

Still Here

The Pacific coast—including Washington, California and all of Oregon; all, that is, in the Pacific time zone—went on daylight saving time this week.

And the republic still stands.—E. A.

"What Do You Mean, I Can't Take It With Me?"



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.

Bells To the Editor: I read an article regarding the campaign to ring "Liberty Bells" across the country on this July 4th.

One of the enthusiasts about this project is Governor Faubus of Arkansas.

Oh, yes, the "Hero" of Little Rock will ring the bell of liberty loudly and clearly.

Mrs. E. Reith 828 East Main St. Medford

For the Future To the Editor: I agree completely with Mr. Pingle. Our school board is composed of fine men who have each lived and worked here for a good many years.

I urge all to get out and vote. Vote as you wish, but be sure to think about your vote. It will affect our schools and community 10 years from now as well as the next few years.

(Name on file) Butte Falls, Ore.

Answers To the Editor: I should like to answer Carleton Whitehead's accusations that I was inaccurate in a recent letter in your newspaper.

(1) I said Secretary Udall stated in Florence that there would be no overnight camping in the proposed dunes seashore. Here is the question I asked: "Mr. Secretary, will there be overnight facilities provided if the dunes park is established?"

Answer: "No. They will be left to concerns outside the park area." Others heard this reply. At present there are 245 family camping places with many more planned by the U. S. Forest Service which manages the dunes. These camps are very popular with families who sometimes stay for several days, people who could not afford to stay at motels.

(2) I said TV coverage of the Udall 45-minute "survey" was provided by a Portland advertising man. Of course, the actual shooting was done by a Portland station but inasmuch as the advertising man heads a group in that city plugging for the park and inasmuch as he was a member of the Udall party, it can be safely assumed that he had a lot to do with it, especially in making arrangements.

(3) Mr. Whitehead says the park service does not "look up" areas. Answer: Look at Olympic National Park where some 800,000 acres are going to waste with an estimated 5 per cent of the tract being available. Millions of board feet of fallen and ripening timber could be salvaged. According to recent visitors, the fire roads built by the U. S. Forest Service before the park officials grabbed the area are overgrown.

Is this huge tract, which could be administered for multiple use, locked up, or isn't it?

Recently National Park officials blocked a road to the south jetty of the Siuslaw river which would have opened up six miles of beach for family recreation on the grounds that they might have a park there. There is something wrong with the National Park Service and people are beginning to find that out.

Jack Parker Box 1033 Florence, Ore.

Romney Liked By Businessmen

Washington—(UPI)—Michigan Gov. George Romney, who used to be one himself, apparently has won the hearts of some leading businessmen in his role as a political figure.

Romney, former president of American Motors, drew an emotional and enthusiastic response Wednesday when he addressed business leaders at the annual U. S. Chamber of Commerce meeting.

The reception added more lustre to his chances of becoming the GOP presidential nominee in 1964, although Romney has disclaimed any candidacy for the White House.

The dapper, animated Republican won a standing ovation from the delegates. They appeared captivated as much by his political style as his message.

Romney warned them against using politics as an instrument of economic power. He urged the formation of a political party that would have true citizen appeal, with enough independence to tell big business or big labor where to go if either got pushy.

The talk in the hotel lobby and cocktail bars afterwards suggested that Romney's speech was the highlight of the chamber's three-day meeting here.

Boeing President In TFX Hearings

Washington—(UPI)—Boeing Co. President William Allen was called before Senate investigators today as the first industry witness to testify in the stormy TFX warplane contract hearings.

Allen was expected to outline Boeing's efforts in the year-long competitive struggle to get the contract for the jet fighter plane, one of the largest military procurement awards in U. S. history.

The investigation subcommittee, headed by Sen. John L. McClellan (D-Ark.), is inquiring into whether favoritism or errors affected the award which went to General Dynamics Corp. instead of Boeing.

Allen was accompanied by Edward Wells, vice president in charge of engineering, and other Boeing officials.

Comptroller General Joseph Campbell said in testimony made public by the subcommittee that Air Force cost estimates "could not be used as a basis for comparing" the rival Boeing and General Dynamics bids.

Campbell said this left the possibility that other figures were used. "However," he said, "we have found no independent or additional cost estimates covering the TFX program as a whole, and the secretaries have advised us that none exists."

Colder Than Usual Temperatures in West

Washington—(UPI)—The weather bureau Wednesday predicted above normal temperatures in the South this month and colder than usual in the West and northern border states.

For the rest of the country, the bureau said in its 30-day forecast, average temperatures will prevail but with large fluctuations.

Above normal rain was predicted for states in the west of the Continental Divide as well as in areas extending from the northern plains through the Great Lakes and the Ohio Valley.

are beginning to find that out.

Jack Parker Box 1033 Florence, Ore.

Italian Elections Seen as 'Shake Down' Of Political Sentiment; Few Changes Seen

By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign News Analyst Italian voters gave Italian Communist boss Palmiro Togliatti a belated birthday present this year, but it seems too early for Moscow to do much celebrating.

The general elections which gave the Communists a record number of votes actually were a shake-down of Italian political sentiment and seem likely to have little effect on the "left-of-center" policy which Premier Amintore Fanfani launched in February 1962.

Any changes that do come about can be expected to be internal rather than external, having no effect either on Italy's NATO ties or on its membership in the European Common Market.

All this is based on the assumption that the political forces which made Italy's 1962-center government retain their ties and that the left-wing Socialists of Pietro Nenni do not heed Togliatti's siren call to join the Communists in a "new political course."

To do so would be to plunge Italy into the greatest political chaos since World War II.

Past action makes such an event unlikely.

When Fanfani began his left-wing center government a little more than a year ago, it was in search of a political stability unknown in Italy since the post-war governments of Alcide de Gasperi.

Fanfani's own Christian Democratic party remained the largest in Italy but it was a patchwork of elements ranging from the moderate left to the extreme right. Since the war, Italy has had 22 governments.

Conflicting interests within the smaller parties such as the neo-Fascists, the monarchists, the liberals and others made successful coalition impossible.

Meanwhile, the left-wing Socialists who had joined the Communists in a popular front in 1948 and split with them two years later, were drifting steadily farther away from their former allies under the leadership of Nenni.

In 1962, Fanfani obtained agreement from his own party for his left-center experiment. His new government was composed of his own Christian Democrats, the Republicans and the Social Democrats.

It had the outside support of the Nenni Socialists in return for promises to nationalize the electrical industry, to decentralize state admini-

stration by creating regional governments, to institute school reforms and development plans, especially for the south.

It alienated both the extreme right and the extreme left and it was anticipated that some votes would flee

both the Christian Democrats on the right and the Nenni Socialists on the left.

In the Sunday-Monday election these predictions were borne out. But the present combination is practically the only one able to rule with any degree of stability.

Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop

THE ATTACK ON McNAMARA Washington—This week, Sen. John McClellan's Special Investigating Committee will resume its hearings on the TFK contract.

The word is going round the capital that the Senator, a determined man, means to keep the hearings going until July, and expects to "turn the TFK contract around."

That means, in effect, that Sen. McClellan hopes to force the resignation of Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. For the Secretary can hardly accept the reversal of his decision, to award this contract to General Dynamics instead of the Boeing Co., without resigning because his judgment has been reversed.

The TFK controversy turns upon technicalities which outsiders, conspicuously including Senate investigating committees, are by no means well-qualified to weigh. Secretary McNamara, who had to fight hard to get even one brief hearing from the Committee, has had no real chance to tell his side of the story.

BUT the rights and wrongs of the TFK affair are very much less important, in any case, than the rights and wrongs of the attack on McNamara, for which the TFK affair is merely the vehicle.

If this vehicle had not served, another one would have been made to serve. That was inevitable, in view of the nature of McNamara's effort.

Since the Defense Department was established, all the successive Secretaries before McNamara have been divisible into two categories. The good Secretaries were primarily interested in national defense. To these, the contemporary members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff invariably behaved with extraordinary arrogance.

The bad Secretaries were primarily interested in budgetary economies. To these, the Joint Chiefs invariably behaved with shameless servility. When the pie was big, in short, the uniformed chiefs of the armed services complained because there was not more pie; and when the pie was limited, they bowed to the ground to get the largest slice.

This is the case because the Army, Navy, and Air Force have never been able to agree among themselves, not just on their own roles and missions, but also and far more importantly, on the basic strategy and tactics of our national defense. With three wholly different defense concepts, the Chiefs of Staff invariably ask for appropriations to defend the country in three different ways at once.

In these circumstances, if there is to be a unified strategic and tactical defense concept, it has to be imposed on the Chiefs of Staff by the Defense Secretary. In the existing system no one else can insist upon a unified concept. Yet if a unified concept is not insisted upon, one of two results must follow.

EITHER the cumulative bill for satisfying three conflicting concepts will be completely astronomical. Or the bill will be reduced to meet budgetary limitations and the defense program will be inadequate. In the last 16 years the Joint Chiefs have repeatedly shown that they prefer the risks of an inadequate defense program to the strain of agreement on a unified defense concept.

McNamara has been trying to change all this, by improving a unified concept. In other words, he has been trying to get the United States the best weapons that money can buy, but no more weapons than are really needed, and at the lowest manageable unit cost. That is the source of his troubles with the Joint Chiefs, which are the source, in turn, of the TFK affair.

Alumni Group Plans Formative Dinner

Ashland—There will be a formative dinner meeting of a Douglas County Alumni chapter of the Southern Oregon College Alumni association Saturday, May 11, at the Roseburg Umpqua hotel, Dale Truax, alumni secretary, has announced.

Dr. Elmo N. Stevenson, president of Southern Oregon college, will be guest speaker. Entertainment will consist of music and dancing by members of the Hawaiian club and folk singing by the Letterman, a college quartet.

Alumni wishing to attend the meeting may make reservations with Mr. and Mrs. John Foust, 1478 NW Eden lane, Roseburg. Tickets also will be available at the door.

Strictly Personal

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

PERSONAL PREJUDICES To achieve self-honesty, we should approach with mistrust all those "principles" we uphold that coincide so neatly with our profit and self-interest; it is only when we hold to a principle that does not benefit us (and may, indeed, injure us in a material way) that we may feel reasonably confident of its truth.

From many writers, we learn something; from a few writers, we become something; only the latter are ultimately of any value.

The men who make a revolution are usually the first ones to be unseated by it, as the Old Bolsheviks were swiftly executed in Russia; and the fatal flaw in all revolutionary doctrines is that they provide no pattern of steady accession, and simply create an atmosphere for their own overthrow.

It is a singular trait in Anglo-Saxon society that brilliance in conversation is the surest way to evoke suspicion in the company; unlike the Latins, who appreciate and admire verbal dexterity, we and the English instinctively suspect any man who speaks fluently and amusingly of being either "slippery" or "not quite sound."

No laborer works as hard for his necessities as the executive does for his luxuries; and this is the irony of modern-day affluence, as compared with the poverty of bygone eras—that what used to be called the "leisure class" is now the coronary class.

The psychological reason that it is necessary to respect excellence was shrewdly put by Goethe, when he observed: "There is no defense against someone else's superiority except love."

No superstition of the ignorant is half as damaging as the chief superstition of the educated—which consists in the erroneous belief that knowing the proper words for something signifies that we comprehend it and are in control of it.

Men of similar vices band together, not for company but for camouflage; for when the birds are all of a feather, the peculiar stripping of each does not stand out so much.

The conscious search for serenity is one of the main sources of continual agitation and perpetual unfulfillment.

The real reason that it is profoundly immoral to live by the rule that "the ends justify the means" is that nobody can know what the ends will be (so often are they contrary to our best intentions), and all we can regulate are the means we use; and if these are cruel or evil, they in themselves pervert and deflect the ends we aim at.

Senator Magnuson's bill is offered at the request of the Interstate Commerce Commission, which, one suspects, may be beginning to wonder how the heck interstate commerce can be carried on at all if (as seems not improbable at the moment) every state in the Union—and maybe, every town and every county—has a different kind of time.

QUESTION: Just what is a DAY?

AGAIN you may be surprised. There are DIFFERENT KINDS of days.

The period between the time when the sun moves across the great circle in the sky which extends north and south through a point DIRECTLY OVER US, is called the "apparent solar day."

More complications: This "apparent solar day" is not always the same in its length, because the motion of the earth varies in its orbit, or path around the sun. Therefore, scientists have developed a unit of time which is intended to be always the same in length.

That unit has been adopted as the standard for the measure of time today.

You may be surprised. The federal government is considering the idea of taking over the problem of Daylight Saving Time.

NAMED TO POST Corvallis—James A. Albright, 1678 Orchard Home dr., Medford, has been elected an officer in his living group at Oregon State university. He is treasurer of Hagall Thorns, one of the campus dormitories. Albright is a freshman this year at OSU in the school of science.



"It is obvious, no? Before we can overthrow Castro we must first overthrow this Kennedy!"