



PROPOSED FREEWAY ROUTE — This map shows the route of the proposed Interstate 5 Freeway over the Siskiyou Mountains. Following the present Highway 99 to the intersection of the old Highway 99, the freeway would then be constructed on a new right of way, providing a better grade,

and in some places a two-level highway. A hearing on the freeway to the California state line was held here last week. Construction is now under way on the freeway from the South Ashland interchange to Wall Creek, at left of map.

Harold Friend Gets Tuition Scholarship

Harold Friend, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Friend, 252 DeBarr ave., has been notified by the state scholarship committee that he received a full tuition scholarship for 1963-64 at Southern Oregon college for outstanding achievement in elementary education.

The student was recently selected for Theta Delta Phi men's scholastic fraternity at the college.

Friend, a senior in elementary education, is one of the students at the college in the five-year "educational program." During the fifth year, the majority of the time will be spent in practice teaching for which he will receive graduate credit.

On the Air

By ELEANOR WIESE

TV Guide magazine this week has done the unexpected — criticized television news and public affairs departments.

In "Television: America's Timid Giant," Edith Efron of the magazine's New York Bureau accuses the networks of being almost mute on many great issues of the day not because of any official regulations or censorship, but because of what she calls a shocking self-imposed silence. TV network news departments are afraid to cover certain controversial areas of national affairs, afraid of political harassment.

Miss Efron bases her accusation on a study of news and public affairs programs during the three-year period 1960, 1961 and 1962, and on personal interviews with TV newsmen and producers, TV critics, and magazine and newspaper editors. She is not criticizing the day-to-day hard news broadcasts but the news specials and documentaries.

The television newsmen pretty well agree the taboo areas in the coverage of national affairs include any coverage that might air criticism of Government, Big Business, unions and labor or the big pressure groups.

Howard K. Smith, ABC news commentator, was quoted as angrily indicting the networks and declaring "You get into trouble if you criticize Big Business. The roof falls in if you criticize Congress, and we're getting increasingly cautious of criticizing the Administration. The pressures are getting worse."

From a total of 1580 subjects covered in the three years studied, Miss Efron has found 421 were foreign coverage, 695 were U.S. domestic issues, and 464 were assorted subjects from Shakespeare to Miss America.

There was a clear pattern to the foreign coverage. The cameras were following the critical news. There were 30 shows on Germany, 30 shows on Cuba, 11 shows on Algeria, etc.

But the pattern of the U.S. coverage was not so clear. Some critical news areas were intensively covered and some almost ignored.

According to reporter Efron, "Almost 80 per cent of the 695 shows on domestic subjects are concentrated in five areas: the President (236 shows), elections (126 shows), space (108 shows), arms and disarmament (42 shows) and racial conflict (30 shows)."

That left only 20 per cent of the programs to cover the major news areas of Government, business and labor during what Miss Efron terms were three stormy years when "... there were major Congressional investigations into Big Business and labor unions. Executives of major industrial firms were sent to jail under the anti-trust acts. Strikes repeatedly imperiled national defense. Congress came under attack for its methods of operation and the privileges of its members. Supreme Court decisions provoked strong opposition from different sectors of the population. . . . Major political scandals broke over some of the highest-placed heads in Washington. A severe stock-market collapse created violent repercussions in the business community."

Yet television news documentaries with a few highly publicized exceptions, avoided such controversial subjects preferring to produce strong dramatic documentaries on "high-powered political and ideological issues in foreign lands."

As New York Times critic Jack Gould puts it: "The networks are courageous abroad and cowards in Washington."

What is the television industry afraid of?

According to one CBS producer, the networks don't want to antagonize anyone.

"The ad agencies panic if you take off against Big Business. In the area of labor, the networks themselves don't want to rock the boat. They're Big Business, and Big Business does not antagonize Big Labor. As for criticism of Government, the nets operate by Government permission. They're not going to antagonize the Administration."

Some of the network executives and newsmen blame the trouble on pressure groups. "They're so organized," says Chet Huntley, "that they can create real havoc within a network. After some controversial stories, you've got six weeks of absolute agony ahead of you, with yelling and meetings and endless correspondence, and lawyers and suits, and shipping scrips back and forth to the FCC. It's real agony."

Different pressures emanating from Washington explain some of the fear. The FCC, which licenses stations and networks, is a political entity, run by political appointees. Behind them is Congress, a political body which can change the laws affecting the networks. Antagonizing influential members of the Commission or Congress could mean unfavorable regulations.

This awareness of potential political danger automatically operates to inhibit in-depth television coverage of national affairs.

How to solve this problem of what Miss Efron calls "a censored medium (of communication) without a censor" will not be easy. In fact not one of the men interviewed by reporter Efron had a solution.

But the problem should be solved. News coverage by this mass media giant should be as comprehensive, critical and unafraid as news coverage by the less timid media — magazines and newspapers.

MEET THE PRESS, 6 p.m. Sunday KMED-TV. Muhammad Zafrulla Khan of Pakistan, president of the current session of the UN General Assembly, is questioned.

SHOW OF THE WEEK, 10 p.m. Sunday KMED-TV. Tuesday Weld and Alfred Drake star in "The Legend of Lylah Clare," a drama of eerie suspense based on the legend of the dibbuk, in which the spirit of a dead person possesses a living body and acts through it.

PEOPLE, PLANTS AND GEOGRAPHY, 8:40 p.m. Monday KMED-TV. The Medford curriculum center recently acquired this nature study film produced by Odd Berke, wilderness expert. The animal photography is outstanding.

Position Explained

By James Redden

Representative James A. Redden (D-Medford) last week explained why he was one of three legislators voting against HB 1129, relating to civil commitment of sex offenders.

Redden said, "all psychiatric testimony indicated that, but for a minute percentage of those committed would be, in effect, a life term because of the low rate of cure. This amounts to a life sentence without the traditional protection afforded the accused."

Redden pointed out that under the bill certain evidence, now considered irrelevant and prejudicial, would be admissible, and further that the burden of proof would not be the traditional burden of "beyond a reasonable doubt."

A member of the special sub-committee appointed to amend the original bill, Redden stated that new safeguards were provided for the accused, but that even now the bill is dangerous, expensive, and will solve nothing.

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