



"THE PAPER THAT HAS NO ENEMIES HAS NO FRIENDS."
—George Putnam.

Democratic Decision

The Democrats are gathering in Chicago. According to the spokesmen of the recent occupants of convention hall, each Democrat should ride up to said hall in a Cadillac with a mink-coated blonde on each arm. Also these fabulously rich and corrupt individuals should stride arrogantly into convention hall and as they do so toss a few old, dirty ten-dollar bills to the cowering and starved on-lookers.

The Democrats take their conventions rather seriously. For the past few years those they have nominated became the leaders of our nation. It is clear that the Democrat delegates must have pleased more than just other Democrats by their choices. The Democrats in Chicago need not hurl vile words at anyone; and if they do, it certainly will be in bad taste and very unbecoming. The Democrats have been the leaders; they have taken the bitter with the sweet. They can expect more of the same.

It is simply not possible that we can figure out who will be the Democrats' choice. We will not sink to the level of saying that it will be determined by President Truman. The Democratic party will have reached lowly depths, indeed, if one man can chart its course. Our experience is quite the contrary.

If the Democrats do not conduct themselves as strong men and women we will be miffed. Democrats must juggle some pretty hefty problems, like the Korean conflict, our foreign policy and the national debt. The people of the United States have been looking to the Democrats for leadership. The Democrats must continue worthy of that respect.

Stalin's slimy hand has a nasty way of thrusting itself into our politics. Stalin's boys routed U. N. Forces in Korea during the U.S. congressional seat fights in 1950. Many believe the fear this created cost many Democrats their seats in Congress. Stalin isn't above pulling some similar performance just before November this year. We have no doubt but what the reaction would be again against the Democrats. Given the facts, the people will make a proper choice.

Abilene Ike

Republican hi-jinks in Chicago are over. "Ike" and Nixon are their men for November. Someone who is not exactly a friend of these two gentlemen coined a new idea "Nix-on Ike". Little gimmicks like this "Nix-on Ike" can catch on and do a lot of harm to political ambitions. Fortunately newspapers and magazines that pushed "Ike's" cause may now really hold forth. There will be no necessity for "eating crow" which would have been necessary had Taft been nominated.

Those who feared Taft's domestic policy can keep the same old feeling with "Ike" as the Republican standard bearer. "Ike" has been led into the political arena as a battler for our present foreign policy or something similar, how similar we do not know. "Ike" must be asked for a clear understandable statement regarding his foreign policy. Dewey engineered the nomination of "Ike" because he believed "Ike" is a winner. With the big number states in the bag for "Ike" at the convention, his nomination was a cinch.

A new twist to the old McCarthy technic of guilt by association is the hinting hither and yon that Truman once offered "Ike" the Democratic nomination for President. This little bit of gossip pictures "Ike" as having Truman's stamp of approval. Truman has in jest offered the Presidency to many though they be young or old. "Abilene Ike" has been hoisted on the back of the creaking GOP elephant. He can expect no steady hand from the Democrats or Truman.

Editorial Comments

FLUORINATED CITY WATER

There is considerable discussion in Salem as well as many other communities all over the nation on the addition of fluorine to a city's water supply for preservation of teeth by the elimination of dental decay.

Fluorine has proved during the past seven years beneficial in many places where tried in reducing the incidence of dental decay in children not older than 12 years, who have not yet developed their permanent teeth. With the good start of elimination from decay, permanent teeth would reflect the benefits.

Any doubts of the benefits of fluoridization has been settled by the approval received from the Public Health Service, the American Dental Association, the National Institute of Dental Research and the National Research Council, the Oregon State Board of Health, the Marion and Polk County Dental Society and many other dental associations. Seaside is one Oregon city that fluoridizes its water with beneficial results. There may be others.

The process of treating water with fluorides is similar to that of treating it with chlorine by a battery of machines now universally adopted, which had the same initial opposition that now faces fluoridization by advocates of "pure mountain water," an exploded myth because it no longer exists in quantities for city supply.

Fluorinated water, as proved in San Francisco, Washington and other large cities, does not affect industrial products. Beer is now brewed with fluorinated water without changing its taste. No evidence has been produced that natural or artificial fluorinated water presents either health or industrial problem.

Fluorides are toxic, but mere traces are added to water supplies and there is no valid opposition to their controlled utilization. The cost is trivial and the proof of its benefits have been demonstrated by its acceptance by over 5 million Americans living in 63 cities in 16 states who have been drinking fluoridized water daily for years. —From Capital Journal.

ABOUT YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM

The Social Security Act amendments of 1950 will come of age in mid-1952. By that time, most employees retiring under the program will have earned that six quarters of coverage after December 31, 1950, needed to avail themselves of a benefit figured under the new benefit formula.

For claims filed before April 1952, only the old method of benefit figuring could be used, but for most persons 65 years of age or over, who filed claims after April 1, 1952, their benefit may be figured by the most advantageous method for them, either the old or the new formula.

Under the new formula, it will be possible for some retired workers to draw a benefit of \$80 per month, while under the old formula the highest possible rate is \$68.50. Benefits will vary in amount from a \$20 minimum to \$80, depending upon average monthly wages. The average monthly benefit in Oregon is only \$40.50 per month at present.

Those who retired before July 1, 1952, will not qualify for the maximum benefit except in rare cases and only in certain cases can the \$80 benefit rate be paid before January 1953.

The new method of figuring benefits does not mean an automatic increase in payments to present beneficiaries; nor does it mean that all future beneficiaries will get \$80 per month. It is simply a benefit computation formula basing benefits on average monthly wages paid after December 31, 1950. It can be used in computing benefits only for wage earners who are fully insured by virtue of wages paid since December 31, 1950. Any wage earner that will attain the age of 65 before July 1, 1954, can be fully

insured with only six quarters of coverage. A quarter of coverage is any calendar quarter in which a wage earner is paid \$50 or more in wages from covered employment.

Persons who anticipate retirement in 1952 should talk it over with their social security office. Their retirement date might be important in deciding the amount of their future benefits. The Portland office of the Social Security Administration is located at 104 Old Post Office Building, Portland 4, Ore. Other Oregon field offices are located in Salem, Eugene, Medford, Klamath Falls, and LaGrande. Social Security representatives also make regular scheduled stops in many other towns. —From Oregon Teamster.

Editor's Letter Box

The following appeared in a recent issue of the Oregon Journal, Portland daily newspaper. We think it might be of local interest:

NOW HE HAS THE \$1.20

To the Editor: After hearing speakers at the GOP convention tell how rotten the present Democratic administration is, I felt so dirty I had two baths in one day instead of my usual one a week.

Maybe it's just a bad dream, but in the early '30s I seem to remember walking the railroad track looking for cinder-covered stale bread that had been discarded by dining cars.

I packed wood and sawdust from curb to basement for 25 cents per cord or load and most of the time had to take food for payment. I have seen both men and women fight over the first chance at a garbage can. I heard a banker's wife say she had not been able to pay her housekeeper any money for two years.

Well, it is no dream that under the so-called rotten Democratic administration, and with a low-bracket rating, I have accumulated property, a few bonds, a small savings account and I expect to retire with an income of almost \$100 a month.

It is true, I am paying high taxes, but in the early '30s I did not have any money to pay taxes with and had nothing to pay taxes on. Today I paid \$1.20 a pound for a steak. Twenty years ago this steak was only 25 cents a pound. Twenty years ago I did not have 25 cents. Today I had the \$1.20.

L. R. BARRETT, Portland

To the Editor:

I wonder if any of your readers have driven out the "Old Mill Road" just east of the Theater, behind one of the logging trucks operating out that road???

It is an experience I cannot recommend! The logging trucks all seem to operate at a high rate of speed, and this, plus the weight of the truck and the road, manages to throw up a cloud of gray, chalky, dust, making it absolutely impossible to see where one is going. This happens each time a logging truck goes along that road, and all of us are in despair.

What are out there, anyway—the forgotten people?? I understand this matter has been called to the attention of responsible officials in Mill City, also the matter of a speed limit on this road has been discussed, but NOTHING has been done about it.

All the homes along there get a big cloud of gray, chalky dust as each logging truck passes, and believe me they pass frequently. The same thing occurs when an individual driving his car sees fit to press his foot down on

CHOKED with GAS?

THANK HEAVENS! Most attacks are just acid indigestion. When it strikes, take Bell's-ans tablets. They contain the fastest-acting medicines known to doctors for the relief of heartburn, gas and similar distress. 25¢.

the gas as far as it will go, and because of the absence of cross-streets in that area it seems to be regarded as a "no limit" speedway all the way out!

It is not only a discouraging and disheartening situation to those of us who are property owners along that road, but it is also dangerous—both to children and grownups walking along the road. It is impossible to see anyone on the road at all immediately after one of these dust clouds is raised.

I have heard much talk around town, to the effect the "road will be paved"; "the logging companies will pay part"; "they are going to black-top road"; each story has given all of us out there new hope but NOTHING HAPPENS!

An orhid to the moderate drivers who realize this condition, and try to give both the people on the road, and the pedestrians, a break—by driving at a reasonable speed—and a great

big scallion to the logging truck drivers who don't care how fast they roll—and also to the above mentioned speed demons who put the gas to the floor when they turn the corner east from the theatre—and leave it down all the way out.

Please—won't someone come out that way and take a good look at the situation, and check this condition when the logging trucks are rolling?

We have all invested money in our homes—why should our property values be decreased in order that the logging companies may operate? Certainly they have to haul their logs, but let's fix the road so they CAN continue their hauling without all of us along the road paying a penalty!

How about it? Sincerely, and my thanks for any help you can give us!
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