



"THE PAPER THAT HAS NO ENEMIES HAS NO FRIENDS."
—George P. Ham.

The Oregon Pen

The Oregon penitentiary situation blew up in the faces of the state board of control this week when they fired Warden O'Malley, without granting him a hearing, and placed control of the institution in the hands of Clarence T. Gladden of Tacoma. Conditions have been explosive for many years and nothing was accomplished when a couple years ago the board of control placed Mr. O'Malley in control but tied his hands by keeping the former warden as prison superintendent where he successfully undermined any authority O'Malley may have been able to get from the state board.

One doesn't need to live under the prison doors to know that Warden O'Malley never got a fair deal from the state administration. The most serious criticism of O'Malley is that he should have resigned and upset the rotten apple-cart of the state administration a long time ago when he found he was not getting the co-operation he should have received. O'Malley has instituted many prison reforms and would have accomplished results had he been given any intelligent support, but how can a man do anything when he is not given his choice of assistants, and has to take the rotten left-over officials?

The investigating wardens surely erred when they failed to consult with O'Malley when they made their investigation, how could they possibly get the true conditions of what is going on at the state penitentiary without getting his side of what was transpiring?

It would appear that what Oregon needs most is a house cleaning from the governor on down, they have been in power too long in Oregon until now it is possible to get anything you want at the prison if you know the right people, and have enough money.

Alexander is the custodian of prisoner's funds and has been for a good many years. It would be well if an audit of these funds were had to find out just what has been done with them. There has been many reports of improper use of these funds by Alexander and now is an excellent time to get an accounting. Alexander has many times forbidden prisoners the right and their privilege of hiring an attorney—has he forced prisoners to hire the "right" attorney before they could get before the parole board?

O'Malley should be given a public hearing so that he can tell what has been going on in the state prison management. He would be able to bring to light the activities of Alexander and any others who created confusion throughout the prison.

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D. B. Hill, Administrator

"JOE BEAVER"

By Ed Nofziger



Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture

"Hey, Buster—wake up! I yelled 'timber!'"

Editorial Comments

SUPPORT FOR STATE SALARY ADJUSTMENTS

The Journal has been taking a verbal beating from Sen. Angus Gibson and Sen. John C. F. Merrifield, chairman and member, respectively, of the subcommittee on ways and means. They've accused The Journal of disregarding "the facts" in supporting wage increases for some 3,300 state employees whom we regard as underpaid. And they and most other members of the subcommittee have finally voted adversely on wage adjustments recommended by the state civil service commission.

Now we're beginning to get some help. The other side of the story is going into the record.

The Oregon State Employees association has sharply criticized the subcommittee's action. Its executive secretary, Forest V. Stewart, is "appalled by the (committee's) total disregard of salary facts" disclosed in salary surveys.

State Senators Lampert and Yeater of Marion county have gone to bat for "the lowly employees" who are hardest hit by higher living costs. They say Oregon has a reputation for being "a stingy state." And other legislators are joining in the criticism of the ways and means subcommittee for "battering down" the pay of "small fry" employes.

Heads of state departments are also taking their wage problems to ways and means. They charge that low salaries for certain types (not all) employes make it impossible for them to compete for technical help and to get and keep competent people.

And Governor Patterson indicates he will step into the controversy with a recommendation for re-examination of certain salary classifications.

Apparently they, like The Journal and unlike the Gibson subcommittee, are impressed by current comparative salary studies.

They are not convinced that the Gibson subcommittee is the only group with "the facts," as it maintains.

They also must have come to the conclusion that the Gibson subcommittee's approval of one biennial, instead of two annual, across-the-board merit raises affecting some 70 percent of all Oregon workers does nothing to alleviate existing inequities in pay scales. On the contrary, this action actually accentuates inequities.

We're glad to have such good company in the fight for salary justice for state employes. We're glad to be on the side of the state police, the low-pay clerical workers, the hospital aides and prison guards, the engineers and auditors and appraisers and the institution employes who still work 12 hours a day. We're still for them, Senator Gibson and friends to the contrary notwithstanding.

And you want to know something? We'll bet the majority of the legislature and the people of Oregon are for them, too.—From Oregon Journal.

WHAT A BIG BOY IS JOE

Sen. Joe McCarthy's announcement of effecting a direct agreement with Greek ship-owners not to haul goods to or from Communist ports looks very much like a Little Jack Horner stunt. Remember Jack, who "stuck

BACKACHE?

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in his thumb, and pulled out a plum, and said "What a big boy am I?" Only Joe is not just holding up his thumb. He has it poised on the end of his nose and is busily flexing his fingers in the direction of the State Department. It is his rejoinder to the victory of Bohlen in obtaining confirmation of Bohlen for ambassador to Russia.

An old law forbids a private citizen from conducting negotiations with a foreign government, a function reserved to the executive branch of the government through its Department of State. McCarthy apparently has skirted this law by dealing with Greek private citizens. He is a public official, however, so his high-handed conduct of negotiations in what really are foreign affairs is offensive in the extreme.

The line of Vergil may apply: "I fear the Greeks, even when bringing gifts." Greek ship-owners are notoriously selfish. They register their ships in countries with liberal laws (like Panama). They avoid paying taxes in their own country, or elsewhere if they are able. One wonders what inducement or threat McCarthy used to get them to quit hauling freight for the Communists. Maybe it was their way of responding to moves of our government to recover surplus ships said to have been bought illegally by aliens.

Wisconsin's Joe will strut for a day, gloating over his boxing the State Department. His vaunted hostility to Communists is quite demagogic—he welcomed their votes in 1946 when he got enough of them to defeat Bob LaFollette. Joe had better watch his step, however. If Eisenhower and Dulles really get mad they may turn to and give him a trouncing.—From The Oregon Statesman.

DID YOU GET YOUR FREE RIDE ON A RAILROAD?

In advertisements in the magazines and newspapers, the railroads are stressing that their roads are built and maintained "without cost to the taxpayers." This, of course, is a back-handed slap at the trucking industry because the rails are also quick to point out that highways are paid for by public funds and that the trucks are "getting a free ride" at the expense of the taxpayers.

The facts are that the trucking industry pays its fair share of highway costs and, in Oregon, pays more than its share. Oregon truck taxes are higher than in any other state of the union.

What the railroads don't talk about are those fat and fast tax write-offs which they have been getting from the Office of Defense Mobilization. The latest batch of tax favors to the railroads totalled more than \$56,500,000 for five railroads. Southern Pacific got two certificates to write-off half of \$26,900,000; Chicago and Northwestern more than half of \$21,000,000; Northern Pacific more than



FRANK EDWARDS Says:

(Heard over KPOJ, Portland, at 10:15 p.m., Monday through Friday)

Park Benches for Sale:

The nation's rent control law expires the last of April unless Congress takes action . . . and there is no indication of any such action at this time. The housing shortage, which has plagued this nation for years, still exists in thousands of communities, placing a premium on substandard living quarters. Thirty-four million people live under rent control at the present time; the housing situation is so acute that almost 2 million people are now living in trailers—some by choice, many by necessity. Rents are expected to jump after April 30 unless congress acts. For example, the Cincinnati Post predicts that rent increases of 50 to 100 percent may be expected there when controls expire. Real estate promoters seem to feel that tenants are expendable where profits are concerned.

Now It's Butter:

Since he reversed himself on price supports, Secretary of Agriculture Benson now owns more than 100 million pounds of butter and is still buying it at the rate of 2 million pounds

half of \$6,000,000; Bangor aid Aroostock more than half of \$3,000,000.

At whose expense are the railroads granted these rapid tax amortizations? At the expense of the rest of the taxpayers, of course.

At least the public gets to ride on the highways which the railroads claim are being subsidized for the benefit of the trucks. But is the public going to get any free railroad rides in return for the tax favors given to the railroads? There's a question you might put to the next railroad man who yammers about a "free ride for trucks." — From the Oregon Teamster.

a day. The Democrats who took it on the chin for their mountains of rotting potatoes are having their day . . . watching the Republicans wade through their sea of butter.

NAM Baloney:

Testifying before the senate banking committee recently, the president of the National Association of Manufacturers, Charles Sligh, again declared in favor of dumping the lion's share of the tax burden on the lower-income groups. Generally referred to as an alleged method of equalizing the tax load, Sligh dressed it up by calling it "a uniform rate excise levy on everything but food." The baloney was so thinly sliced that even Sen. Homer Capehart (R., Ind.) recognized it . . . as a national sales tax.



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