

The Herald and News

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Oregon USA

By JOSEPHINE KITTREDGE
I am amused by State Representative John Kerbow's attempt to entice me into a Democrat-Republican argument on taxation. Puckering up in a partisan pout becomes the Representative from Klamath County.

At no time in the past years in Oregon has taxation been a clear cut issue between either the Republican or Democratic party. Both have been equally guilty of misleading the voters on occasion. Silly statements on taxation or any other issue are not the sole property of the Democratic party, nor have I ever said so.

The Republican party has been quite annoyed with me on occasion also, for calling attention to the 45 per cent surtax, which I objected to. The Republican party has not liked my pointing out other policy matters that I considered to be unwise. Is blind partisanship a qualification? I think not.

It pleases me to know that Representative Kerbow agrees with me on the point of controversy that the governor of Oregon raised about whether or not taxes had been reduced in the special session. Mr. Kerbow says, "first, the special session did not reduce taxes." That is true, it did not. It just reduced the rate structure.

Also, we are in agreement on my friend Lew Wallace... one of the first persons to openly espouse and support vigorously the Oregon Nonpartisan Tax League was Lew Wallace. He believes as we do, that taxation is an affair that concerns all the citizens and should not be the tool of political parties to be used along party lines, but whose interpretation should be toward a balanced tax program of economy and proper spending. However, all the Republican candidates for governor have stated their positions on a tax program also.

I would recommend that the voters look over all the candidates and vote for the man they feel will deal most carefully and honestly with their money. I simply couldn't care less about political party at this juncture just before the primary election. The decisions in a primary election are among candidates within the individual parties, and my good Republican and Democratic friends will vote their conscience in that little voting booth as they always have.

The regular session of the Legislature in 1957 and the special session of the Legislature in 1957 were controlled to a large extent by a responsible group of Democrats and Republicans, who formed a coalition for mutual protection so they might hold the line on what they considered to be unreasonable and punitive tax legislation. It is quite possible that this will again be the case in the 1959 session of the Legislature.

As for being my "eyes and ears" with the Interim Tax Committee, I appreciate the offer, but I have no quarrel with Sen. Walter Pearson or the members of the Interim Tax Committee. They have very graciously included me in their hearings, and I have attended the greater portion of these hearings, and have complete minutes of the proceedings.

As for the State Tax Commission being the subject of partisan attack and misinterpretation, they seem to get their ears beaten down from the executive branch of state government far more than they do in the press of Oregon.

They have been coerced into retracting statements a number of times this past year, or hastily substituting another statement. They found themselves, having to admit a 210 million dollar error in computation on the surplus at the end of the 1955-1957 biennium before the "toothless tigers" subcommittee of the Oregon Senate at Portland in September, 1957.

This followed a statement by Governor Holmes in which he attempted to blame the whole thing on Republican ex-commissioner Ray Smith's deliberate attempt to sabotage his program. The State Tax Commission members admitted this was incorrect at the Portland meeting, in fact they said the error occurred within the commission itself. Commissioner Stewart definitely stated it was not the fault of ex-commissioner Smith, and the rest of the commission acquiesced in this statement by their silence.

No, I ask you, what kind of monkey business is this? Crazy mixed up kids, aren't they?

I believe United States Senator Richard Neuberger set a pattern that any Democrat of substance might well emulate. There are times when a partisan approach is not in the best interests of your constituents or your state.

I hope that the basic intent of my first editorial, which was illustrated by a letter to me from the research assistant of Gov. Robert D. Holmes attempting to restrain

my right of free speech on the subject of taxation, by stating that I did not know what I was talking about, receives serious consideration from all of you.

This is the most serious and grave threat to the right of free speech to any one of us. If the newspapers and their columnists are not allowed to print the truth, just how much will you, the public, really know about your affairs?

Freedom of speech is our right. Let us not lose it.

Mail Call

By HAL BOYLE
NEW YORK (AP) — Things a columnist might never know if he didn't open his mail:

That although the work week of the average Russian has fallen from 48 hours to 46, he still labors longer for less than the citizen of any major Western power. That of the world's estimated 105 million vehicles, 67 million are registered in the United States. That William Howard Taft, our heaviest president, at one time weighed 354 pounds. Can anybody name offhand the lightest president?

That if you're suffering from spring fever and your job bores you, you might recall this quip by Sir James Barrie: "Nothing is really work unless you would rather be doing something else."

That one way to tell if a coin is counterfeit is to try to cut its edge with a knife. If it nicks easily, you've probably been hooded.

That less money has been spent on research in schizophrenia, the most common mental malady, than on any other major disease. That only 50 per cent of a meat animal is meat.

That the highest divorce rate in America is found on the West Coast. But Egypt is the best country to get a real quickie... To shed a wife there all a Moslem has to do is thrice repeat the phrase: "I divorce thee!"

That the so-called milk snake doesn't milk cows... It does hang around barns, but it is attracted by the mice, not the cows.

That deer (except for bachelors) are now the most plentiful big game animal in America.

That Johnny Carson of TV's "Do You Trust Your Wife?" claims he invented a new food by crossing a potato with a sponge... "It does not taste too good," he admits, "but it sure holds a lot of gravy."

That you've got a keen memory if, after you grow up, you can remember any event in your life before your third birthday. That comic George DeWitt says "a yes-man is a guy who camouflages his candid thoughts with candid opinions."

That a study showed one out of three nonsmokers habitually carries matches... to oblige his friends.

That handleader Sammy Kaye says, "There is an ideal cure for love. It's called marriage."

That it was Samuel Johnson who observed, "That kind of life is most happy which affords us most opportunities of gaining our own esteem."

Metal War

By SAM DAWSON

NEW YORK — Russia's economic war with the West — long pooh-poohed by American exporters — is beginning to hurt a little in at least one sector. World metal markets have been jolted a bit by Russian exports.

This comes at a time when American metal producers already are having troubles enough of their own.

Aluminum, tin, platinum and

zinc as well as some of the steel alloys have felt the competition. Some of the price weakness in these metals is traced to an outpouring of Russian metal, especially into Western Europe.

The Russians can set their own prices—usually below the prevailing world price—because Soviet bookkeeping isn't hampered by such things as the cost of production or the need to break even.

There's no way of knowing Moscow's intentions: whether Russia simply is producing more now and wants to sell surpluses to get funds needed for purchases of Western goods, or whether it is dumping the metal with a view to upsetting world markets and thus adding to whatever effect the American recession is having on Europe.

But Khrushchev boasts he plans to take world markets away from the United States and the furry in metals may be the first of these economic brush wars.

How Russia can affect American domestic markets first came to light by way of Canada. Russia was putting so much cheap aluminum into England that Canada was losing her big market there. So a Canadian producer cut the price of aluminum. A few days later American producers were forced to follow suit.

The price of platinum has just dropped here. The reason given by the trade is that Russia is selling the metal in Europe at cut prices.

United Nations officials report that Russia is now entering the world markets as an exporter of tin. The Belgian Congo, Nigeria, Bolivia, Indonesia, Malaya and Thailand have had this market to themselves. Already the price structure of the metal is weak and non-Communist production cut back so the new competition is disturbing. The U. N. reports that last year the Soviets exported 6,613 tons of tin to Western Europe for about 15 million dollars, compared to only 346 tons the year before. Some put current exports at 10,000 tons.

From time to time Russian gold shows up in Western Europe. Probably the gold is used to buy things the Russians need badly, but often one or more of the European currencies are under such pressure from other factors that the sudden change in the volume of gold on the market can be upsetting.

Russia's gold production figures are secret. But some guess that it is producing around 17 million ounces a year, or the same as South Africa which is the largest producer in the Western world.

The Soviet bid for world markets is also being pushed at Brussels World Fair where its products are on display.

So far the West is far ahead in the race but the Russian entry will bear watching.

School Problem

Klamath Falls (To The Editor)—

Again, as he has done many times in the past, Nelson Reed has rendered an outstanding service to the community.

In his editorial pertaining to the school budget, Mr. Reed has expressed ably and fairly the convictions of many of us who find it difficult to do so ourselves due to lack of experience and, perhaps, courage.

Many school budgets have been voted down. It seems to us it expresses a growing uneasiness on the part of the general public and parents concerning our educational system.

We have entrusted our children and our money to our educators in the belief they are better qualified than we to determine cur-

riculum. As parents we must accept our share of responsibility for our complacency, but likewise we feel that the educators — and especially those who advocate the "life-adjustment" type of education — must adopt a more realistic attitude. Sputnik pointed this up. In his broadcast No. 13, 1957, President Eisenhower said, "I wish that every school board and every PTA would this week and this year make one single project their special order of business: To scrutinize your school's curriculum and standards to see whether they meet the stern demands of the era we are entering."

Mrs. Art Cherry
Mrs. Sam Ritchey
Mrs. Irvin Warner
Mrs. Al Carlson
Mrs. Jack Coleman
Mrs. Harold Young
Mrs. C. C. Colvin

Correction

Salem (To The Editor) — Your feature story concerning the "Oregon Supreme Court Races" by James D. Olson, carried the erroneous statement that the incumbent of Position No. 7 "has been on the state supreme bench since January, 1947." He was appointed September 13, 1927.

One of the important points in this judicial race is the fact that the incumbent became a member of the Oregon Supreme Court some 30 years ago, and his average production over the past nine years has dropped one-third as compared with the first nine years of his tenure. He would be 79 years old at the end of another term.

I have great respect for the incumbent and the contributions he has made to Oregon jurisprudence, but in consideration of the serious "backlog" problem that now exists in the court, with delay of two or three years in deciding cases, there is a retirement issue to be decided by the voters on May 16.

Whether reelected or not, the incumbent can retire at \$8,000 per year with further benefits for the security of his wife, and the voters are entitled to know that fact.

With 17 years legal experience, I am now the same age as the incumbent was when he became a justice of the Oregon Supreme Court.

Jason Lee

Detailed Budgets

Klamath Falls (To The Editor)—

Please thank Mr. Reed for his letter about the school budget. Mr. Reed has interpreted figures into comprehensive information. We need more of this kind of analyzing. School budgets, city budgets, county budgets, financial statements mean very little to the public. They are too general. There is a need of improvement in the reporting of public business. Just publishing a yearly budget is not enough. It needs explaining. The public needs details.

How many families total their yearly salary under light, water, heat, food, clothing, medicine, rents, and payments on the car? Most people spend from week to week, and when it is gone must stop for that week. Weekly figures between \$50 to \$100 are easy to understand. Budgets, possibly, should be itemized. For instance, salaries, these are now lumped into one total. They should be divided according to number of teachers at each rate.

Few people attended the budget meeting because they do not know what to ask. It is one thing to have a feeling things are not right, but one cannot be that hazy if one wishes to ask questions.

A detailed budget is a good place to start and would help the taxpayer to formulate questions.

Marguerite Kahl
1212 Eldorado Ave.

Quotes

By UNITED PRESS

BOGGTA, Colombia — William Key, Vice President Nixon's administrative assistant, on reports an attempt would be made to assassinate Nixon today.

"We had a report there possibly would be violence in Caracas, specifically that an assassination attempt would be made."

Nixon, on the same reports: "I would say that this is routine—a routine threat. If we changed our plans every time something like this came up, we wouldn't do anything."

WASHINGTON — William O. Walker, president of the National Newspaper Publishers Assn. and publisher of The Cleveland Call and Post, urging other Negroes to set up an organization to combat the Negro crime rate.

"If Negroes could populate schools at the same rate that they do jails we would be the best educated people in the world."

Manager Plan

Editor's Note — This is the fifth in a series of articles on the Council-Manager plan to be voted on by Klamath Falls residents on May 16, prepared by the League of Women Voters.

In Klamath Falls, under a Council-Manager plan, the five councilmen would be elected in the same manner as the present system. Experience in cities with this plan shows that citizens are more willing to run for councilmen. They feel they serve their community better when its government makes sense. The council is freed of the mass of administrative detail found in the mayor-council form. This has taken much of their time needed in their own business or homes, which discouraged a citizen in civic participation.

The mayor would be elected directly by the voting citizens. He would give political leadership both to the council and to the city. He would be the chief representative of the city in all state and formal occasions. Consequently both experience and logic calls for his direct election.

The manager should be hired directly by the council. The professional manager and the professional school superintendent represent an up to date method of handling complicated administrative details of government. Because of complexities of city life, voters now realize it takes more than a year for public office to produce a man who can operate a great department.

The salary of the manager would be about \$10,000 yearly. Honest citizens do not expect efficiency, improved planning and growth without paying for these services. It has been said that a manager makes his salary in the economies he produces in his administration. There are college trained and experienced managers available for hiring. This has been due to the fact that our educational institutions have ascertained the need in modern city governments and counseled interested students in this direction.

A government never stands still, growth or decays with lack of progress. Your decision on the May 16 ballot is an important decision.

The League of Women Voters unhesitatingly endorses the Council-Manager plan.

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ANGLEWORM PLEADED NON COMPOS ABOUT ELECTRICITY—THAT'S HOW HE GOT PAL PLYERS TO HELP HIM—

By Jimmy Hatlo



Don Rose, Columbia's new crew coach, is only 5-foot-2 in height.

School Aid Grants Show Slight Drop

State school aid grants for Klamath County schools totaled \$567,487 for 1957-58, about \$12,000 less than the \$579,414 received in the previous fiscal year, County Treasurer Eva Cook reported today.

The aid grants, based on a figure of \$105 per pupil, were slightly less, she said, because of state changes in methods used to compute the grants.

The funds are received by the county treasurer and credited to the County School Unit's account.

EXCEEDS

Dr. Elmo Stevenson, president of Southern Oregon College, has announced that since the spring of 1946 there has been no time until 1958 when the enrollment of spring exceeded that of the fall quarter in any academic year. This term total enrollment is 958 in comparison to 931 last fall quarter.

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