

# THE VOICE

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### EDITORIALS

The views expressed in these columns are those of the writer and not necessarily a reflection of the policy of The Voice.—Pub.

## Economic Highlights

Happenings that affect the future of every individual. National and international problems inseparable from local welfare.

Few news stories of our time have been given so lavish a treatment as the final illness and death of Stalin. And few events have offered so fruitful a field to commentators and columnists whose business it is to move from the hard ground of fact into the risky air of theory and guess at future events.

Generally speaking, the forecasts of what Stalin's death implies for Russia and the world fell into several diverse channels. One group offered the hope that the whole Bolshevik edifice might come crashing down in ruin now that the strong man was gone. Another speculated concerning the possibility of revolutionary uprisings both within the U.S.S.R. and the satellite countries. A third decided that the chance of World War III had become more remote because the new masters of the regime would have their hands full and then come with domestic problems. A fourth, holding the opposite view, said that World War III might be more imminent on the grounds that Stalin's successors would have to take this grim step in order to unify the Russian people.

But the more general opinion—and the opinion which seems to be held in Administration circles—is that Stalin's passing will not greatly affect, at least for a considerable period of time, the Soviet attitude, or change the Soviet policy of aggression-short-of-world-war.

This opinion has a solid base. First of all, it is extremely unlikely that Russia's rulers would have been unprepared for Stalin's death—the most far-reaching plans and preparations must have been made. It is equally unlikely that Stalin would have permitted men who were in disagreement with his ideas to be in the position of successors—the dead dictator was as ruthless and as efficient a hand at eliminating opposition as the world has ever known. And the past record of the men now at the top—Malenkov, Beria, Molotov—shows them to be Stalinists of the purest hue.

There is another and very important side to this. The dictatorship is now directed by several minds, instead of one—and whether or not a divided dictatorship can hope to succeed is certainly a \$64 question. It is perfectly reasonable to assume that the top men, excellent as their

relations may seem on the surface, are even now engaged in a quiet war for power—and that each hopes to eventually hold all power and liquidate the others. That is the way Stalin came to the top—the road he took was paved with the bodies of old friends and compatriots. There is good ground for believing that as a long-term proposition a dictatorship has room for only one absolute dictator.

Even so, and despite what eventually may happen behind the thick Kremlin walls, Russia will in all probability continue to present a unified face to the world. For the time being, Stalin's successors will have to work together if only in the interest of self-preservation—the last thing they can afford is an open division with all the internal discord and unrest and weakening that this might involve. It is significant that the best reports we have had from behind the Iron Curtain indicate that as soon as Stalin's illness was announced—and announced in such a way that no one could believe he would recover—the police and military and all the other forces the Kremlin has at its disposal to maintain order and to liquidate opposition were put into a high state of alertness and were ready for anything.

## Campus Corner

By Stella Woodlee

The Women's Residence Halls honored the coming Easter season with a hat party. The only difference between the hats seen at the party Thursday and those which will be in the Easter Parade is that the girls purposely designed theirs of fantastic materials, shapes and sizes. Shirley Thomas was one of the prize winners, placing third with her pearl-bedecked raccoon cap plus lampshade creation. The girls enjoyed cokes after seeing a style show of spring fashions.

Spring parole, usually recognized as Easter vacation, begins tomorrow, April 3, and now too soon according to most U. N. students. As far as I can find out, the campus crowd will be scattering west to Alliance and Sidney, south to Dallas, Tulsa, and Kansas City and east to Omaha. We'll all be back April 8—sad but true.

Paul Kidd appeared last Sunday in the University Singers presentation of Brahms "Requiem." The group, directed by Dr. A. E.

## Capitol News

By Melvin Paul  
Statehouse Correspondent  
The Nebraska Press Association  
LINCOLN—A first class feud is in the making here between Gov. Robert B. Crosby and the powerful chairman of the Legislature's Budget Committee, trigger-tempered Arthur Carmody of Trenton.

Neither man will concede that they are anything but the best of friends and that's probably true on a personal basis, but insiders will tell you that Carmody is miffed at what he considers a phoney budget submitted by Crosby.

Some of the veteran Trenton legislator's complaints have been public. He has pointed to the fact that Crosby recommended to the Legislature that something be done about completing murals in the Capitol yet didn't propose a penny for that purpose. Another "gap" in the governor's budget spotlighted by Carmody is an appropriation for the school lunch program in the Department of Instruction.

It's an open secret that Carmody feels the budget doesn't truly represent the state's financial picture because money which is "obligated" is counted as having been spent. Reportedly there is about \$5 million in such funds in the Highway Department.

Last week end, Carmody, apparently irked at having several department heads appear before his committee urging salary increases for their staffs, and at the governor's disclaimer of responsibility for the requests, told newsmen that Crosby's budget would allow nearly \$2 million which could go to increase salaries.

Crosby's answer was, yes, it could go for that, but it won't. He believes, he said, in a safe financial cushion for each department, but he has stressed to his department heads that he will approve no general increases and that before any boosts at all are granted, they'll have to have his okay. The next move was up to Carmody.

### Diversion

The betting here this week was that Sen. Richard Marvel of Hastings will have to raise his water diversion bill on the floor because it is doomed to die in the Public Works Committee which last week sat through four long hours of testimony and on Sunday flew the length of the Platte Valley for a first-hand look-see at what the fuss is all about.

Marvel started out one vote behind in the committee. Already counted on his side is Sen. Tom Coffey of Alma while three certain opponents are Sens. Joseph D. Martin of Grand Island, Walter J. Williams of Kearney and Robert G. Brower of Fullerton.

The four with so-called "open" minds are Chairman Hugh Carson of Ord and Sens. William Moulton of Omaha, Glenn Cramer of Al-

bion and Hal Bridenbaugh of Dakota City.

Disposition of the water diversion bill is expected to break a log jam on a lot of other measures. No bill in this writer's memory has been used for trading stock as has the diversion bill this session. You can't escape the comparison of youngsters trading autographs: One of Hopalong Cassidy is worth half a dozen of some lesser light. So it is with the diversion measure. A vote for or against diversion is worth votes on several other bills.

### Taxes

The last of the three bills on which Gov. Crosby and Tax Commissioner Norris J. Anderson hoped to build a state tax policy was due for final consideration this week.

It's LB 89 which is intended to hold the tax intake of governmental units to 105 per cent of the amount they could have collected in the preceding year.

Crosby has urged it as a brake on tax collections after the passage of the 50 per cent assessment bill, LB 272. The third measure was the annual valuation law.

On a test vote last week, Sen. Terry Carpenter's motion to kill LB 89 failed, 32 to 9. It was then advanced by voice vote.

### Sales Tax

Due up this week also is Sen. Dwight Burney's attempt to raise his two per cent sales tax measure which was finally killed by the Revenue Committee late last week to the surprise of nobody.

Burney, who has been beating his head against the wall in behalf of a sales tax for what seems lost forever, refuses to be discouraged. Even if he fails this time, he says, it won't be a complete loss.

"People are coming to see that it's the only answer," he said, "it may take a while, but the day is coming."

Legislative observers have been mildly surprised that Burney has not taken fuller advantage of the confusion which followed the Supreme Court decision in the Johnson County case to hold the sales tax aloft as the way out of what then seemed a near-hopeless muddle.

### Salaries

Gov. Crosby and State Banking Director J. F. McLain got bad news from Deputy Attorney General Clarence A. H. Meyer but for State Engineer L. N. Ress Agriculture Director Ed Hoyt and Insurance Commissioner Tom Pansing it was glad tidings.

Meyer held in an opinion sought by the governor that Crosby and McLain will have to wait until 1957 before salary increases voted by the 1951 Legislature become effective but the other three are eligible now for their boosts.

The opinion followed a Supreme Court Decision in the ac-

## TAKES URBAN LEAGUE JOB IN OKLAHOMA

M. M. Taylor, Omaha Urban League industrial relations secretary for the past six years, is leaving to take over a special project for the National Urban League in Oklahoma.

Sponsored by the National Urban League, Tulsa Chamber of Commerce and the Masonic Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, the project involves working with industry and business leaders in an effort to better social and economic conditions for Negro citizens in Oklahoma. The project will last for six months. There is a possibility that an Urban League will be formed in Tulsa.

tion brought by a former insurance commissioner Loren Laughlin, who claimed he was entitled to the 1951 raise.

Crosby now receives \$10,000 a year and if he's still around in four years, he will get \$11,000. McLain also will get a \$1,000-a-year hike if he's still in office.

The opinion was particularly important in the case of Ress, who left the \$7,440-a-year post of deputy state engineer to take the department's top job. His predecessor, Harold Aitken got \$7,500 and the opinion says Ress is entitled to the \$8,500 voted by the '51 Legislature. He had said he wouldn't take the post for less.

Both Pansing and Hoyt will get \$6,500 under the opinion.

### The Women

It's been a long time since the Legislature has laughed so hard as it did last week before killing the bill which provided that women doing the same work as men should receive equal pay.

Sen. Terry Carpenter, the colorful freshman from Scottsbluff took the floor in his second defense of womanhood within several days. Although he assured his colleagues he wasn't joking, his impassioned oratory had many of his listeners in tears—from laughing.

Sen. Earl J. Lee of Fremont contributed to the merriment when he rose in rebuttal to Carpenter's jab, "Are we going to allow a few poultry men in Omaha who skin chickens to skin the women of Nebraska?"

Lee stumbled over his own words and blurted, "No employers have put any pressure on me!"

This episode, coupled with a similar low-comedy exhibition during debate on the 40-hour week for state employees measure, has led to a suggestion that this session be dubbed the Follies of 1953.

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