



Sheriff discusses jail overcrowding

What to do with all the prisoners?

That is a problem on the minds of county officials more and more these days, according to Lewis County Sheriff Bill Logan, guest speaker March 28 during the monthly meeting of Lewis County Democrats.

Logan described the problem of jail over-crowding and said a team from the National Institute of Justice planned to visit this month to analyze jail over-crowding and possibly suggest some solutions.

The sheriff also reported on the progress of Substitute House Bill 1715 (SHB-1715), which has passed the House and, as of March 26, was moving through the Senate committee process.

SHB-1715 would make the office of sheriff nonpartisan and is supported, Logan said, by 38 of the state's sheriffs. Many law enforcement officers, Logan related, feel that making the office nonpartisan would contribute to professionalism.

It is somewhat awkward at present, Logan said, for sheriffs go out for six months each four years to be partisan politicians when the rest of the time they must be nonpartisan in order to fulfill the duties of their offices.

Concerning the problem of jail over-crowding, Logan was hopeful the National Institute of Justice team can come up with some positive proposals.

The sheriff described several ideas to relieve jail over-crowding. One option, he said, would be to install cells in an empty building. Another would be to buy cargo containers which, when cut in half, would make two cells. The cells would then have to be furnished and connected to utilities.

Another option would be to rent or lease mobile jail housing, which would be brought in, set up and connected to utilities.

The sheriff's office on the weekend of March 23-24, Logan said, booked 34 prisoners. Only two of them, he added, were new people. Nine of them were repeaters, he added, re-arrested because they failed to make court appearances, or failed to pay court-ordered

fines. The cost of handling and re-handling the same person over and over, Logan said, can be substantial.

He cited the case of a man initially arrested by Lewis County for driving while intoxicated, then released. Then later the man might be arrested by Tacoma on a Lewis County failure to appear warrant.

Tacoma authorities then use a law-enforcement relay, taking the prisoner to Thurston County. Then Thurston County relays the prisoner to Lewis County, where he is booked into the jail again to await a court appearance.

In such an instance, Logan said, three different agencies have handled the person and, more than likely, he will be released following a 15-minute court appearance.

Centralia attorney Joe Enbody wondered whether county commissioners have said what they plan to do about the work-release program?

Logan indicated that no decision had yet been made. Logan added the sheriff's office, for a time, had 17 work-release beds. When the jail population got too big, however, some choices had to be made. As a result of the jail over-crowding problem, the work-release beds were phased out because they were needed for the regular prisoners.

"We would like to get back into it," Logan referred to work-release.

He added that the county has been looking at the old Peter Pan Nursing Home as a possible work-release facility. If used for that purpose, however, the building would have to be remodeled. The old nursing home, Logan said, could accommodate up to 128 work-release beds. Still, it

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I say, Watson. Have you heard this rumor about overcrowding at the jailhouse?

would cost some pretty big bucks, Logan said, along with additional jail staff.

Logan also said that law and justice funds the state provided to the county were due to run out at the end of March.

"At that point," Logan said, "we're going to have to limit who we take to jail."

"I think you're already seeing that," Enbody commented, adding that the judges are keenly aware of the problem.

"I wish we had the money to build a jail like Clallam County did," Logan added. "They built a big jail, twice as big as they needed. Now," Logan said, "they rent space out."

Lewis County, Logan said, is in a position now that it could fill just about any size jail one would want to build, within reason.

Jastad ends career

Elmer Jastad, retired legislator and Mayor of Morton for 29 years, died March 23 at Morton General Hospital. He was 83.

Jastad, born March 31, 1097 in Agate, Wa., served in the Washington State House of Representatives for 12 years and served as Mayor of Morton until 1971.

He attended high school in Pe Ell and was graduated from Washington State College with a degree in pharmacy in 1928. He operated a Pe Ell pharmacy in Pe Ell before moving to Morton in 1940. He operated the Thrifty Drug Store in Morton until 1971.

Services for Elmer Jastad were held March 29. Interment was at the Sticklin Greenwood Memorial Park Cemetery in Centralia.

Where have all The grammas gone?

In the dim and distant past
When life's tempo wasn't fast,
Gramma used to rock and knit,
Crochet, tat and babysit.

When the kids were in a jam
They could always call on gram.
In that day of gracious living
Gramma was the gal forgiving.

But, today she's in the gym,
Exercising to keep slim.
She's off touring with the bunch
Or taking clients out to lunch.

Going north to ski or curl,
All her days are in a whirl.
Nothing seems to stop or block
her,
Now that grandma's off her
rocker.

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Third District Congressional report

By Jolene Unsoeld

(Editor's note: The following message is from the office of Congresswoman Jolene Unsoeld)

After years of policy mismanagement, the federal government is finally realizing it needs sound practices to develop a reliable future timber supply and provide environmentally sustainable uses of our resources. But years of government action and inaction have had a harsh cost.

The price environmental values are asking our Northwest families to pay - economically, socially, emotionally - is tremendous.

For workers who will have to make the transition to family wage jobs in the future, we need long-term training initiatives, allowances for basic needs, expanded unemployment programs to include workers who were self-employed, and support services such as medical service. I testified at a recent hearing in favor of such programs and will work to adequately fund them.

The House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Labor-Management Relations, of which I am a

member, has approved legislation that protects striking workers by preventing companies from hiring fleets of permanent replacement workers. I co-sponsored and testified on behalf of this bill. A strike is supposed to create hardship for workers and hardship for management - but there is no hardship for management when it can threaten to bring in permanent replacements and undercut the strikers' efforts.

Nix on source taxes - computer phoning

I have just introduced bills to end two outrageous practices: "source taxes" that California and other states impose on the pension income of non-residents; and commercial phone solicitation by computer.

Five to 10 states charge these source taxes against former residents who once worked in those states, but then chose to retire elsewhere. Hundreds of retirees in Washington are slapped with this unfair tax, and if we don't act, thousands more could be hit with it.

The Telephone Privacy Act protects working Americans who go to their home for peace and quiet rather than computer-generated sales pitches. Phone lines belong to the people, not computers.

Brock Adams still has friends

By Terrence L. Bracy
Washington, D.C.

"I have read so much from my critics lately," Brock Adams kidded last fall, "that I am bound to hear from some friends." I am a friend.

I have also been a close observer of the remarkable career of America's only active public official to have served in the U.S. House, Senate and Cabinet. I worked for him as a young speech writer in the late 1960s, and as an assistant Secretary of Transportation 10 years later.

I am too biased to evaluate Adams record. What I have to add comes from having a box seat as he faced some of the most compelling issues of our time: Vietnam and Congressional reform in the 1960s, America's failing automobile industry in the 1970s, and Congressional war powers in the 1980s and '90s. Here is what I saw.

• **Vietnam and congressional reform.** Never was speaker Sam Rayburn's admonition "to get along, go along" more apt than for the young congressman from Seattle, whose Democratic president was conducting a war with the assistance and support of Washington state's most revered politician, Sen. Henry "Scoop" Jackson.

And yet, Adams just couldn't fall in line.

As early as 1966, he was disrupting intelligence briefings with questions neither the military nor the State Department wanted to answer. As the escalated that year, with a resultant increase in casualties, he and a small band of colleagues began stirring in earnest.

One day in late 1967, he called me to his office and showed me a story about a small town that had lost in combat the entire male population of a recently-graduated high school class. That day, he began drafting an opposition speech, which he ultimately delivered at Seattle University. Lyndon Johnson never spoke to him again.

It was during this period that Adams teamed with Rep. Morris Udall to issue the first direct challenge in this century to a sitting Speaker of the House. They lost the vote to Speaker John McCormick, but unleashed the forces of reform that have given us a more open and democratic Congress.

• **The auto industry.** Cracks in the U.S. auto industry were beginning to show by the time Adams arrived in January 1977 at the Transportation Department. He was under immediate and persistent

(Continued next page - Brock Adams)

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(Brock Adams - continued)

pressure from management and labor, as well as the White House staff, to retreat from his stated beliefs in passive restraints and tougher fuel-economy standards.

Adams nonetheless insisted on more fuel-efficient automobiles and the installation of air bags - decisions that look prescient today. I was with Adams when the audacious transportation secretary called the chief executive officers of the Big Four to a confidential meeting in a Detroit hotel room. They sat stunned as he told them that bad products, not government regulation, were their problem.

As Henry Ford and others rolled their eyes, he told them the Japanese were going to take their market if they didn't innovate. He offered the government's help with a research and development program. Their response was to campaign against him at the White House.

• **Congressional war powers.** While most of us were enjoying the holidays last

December, Adams was brooding about events in the Persian Gulf.

"We are going to war," he told me over the kitchen table one day. "There is no way those young people ought to have to fight like in Vietnam. If we're going to war, the Senate is going to approve it, I promise you."

When Congress convened on Jan. 3 to swear in new members, Adams and Sen. Tom Harkin turned a ceremonial session into one of the toughest confrontations the Senate had seen in some time.

Adams demanded a vote on the Persian Gulf policy, now, before the troops were under fire. He wouldn't yield until the majority leader had withdrawn a motion to recess the following week, and had committed to such a vote.

Adams left the floor that afternoon with many colleagues fuming, having restored the right to declare war to an ungrateful Senate.

Yes, I am loyal to a friend, but in the case of Brock Adams, deeper feeling reside.

Within this unusual man, burdened as we all are with failings and vulnerabilities, there thrive a fundamental honesty, strength and independence that are the essence of real leadership.

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