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MARRIS ELLSWORTH, Editor

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Finish Highways First.

FROM time to time during the years since some clever Oregon legislator invented the idea of taxing gasoline as a means of raising revenue with which to finance a state highway program, mouths of tax spenders have watered for a bit of this luscious overbearing tax fruit. Fortunately all such efforts have thus far been resisted.

It is not easy, therefore, to look with favor upon the suggestion advanced by an organization known as the League of Oregon Cities, that \$1.50 per capita be set out from the highway funds received from gas taxes and given to cities of the state with which to rebuild and maintain city streets.

The idea has a distinctly metropolitan flavor since the greatest street problems are in the metropolitan areas. If that is the case, tourists and other users of gasoline in Oregon should not be required to help build and maintain streets in Portland—or, for that matter in any other city.

The gasoline tax is the easiest tax to collect, the most certain of steady income, and it is the one tax that has, with the exception of the year 1938, been increasing each year. But with the increase in gas tax receipts there is an ever increasing demand for highway improvement and construction. The highway system of the state is not in perfect condition by any means—nor is it complete. So far as this newspaper is concerned it prefers to see the highway funds let alone and let the cities struggle along with their street problems—at least for a while longer.

Exiles Adrift.

THESE being boom times in the field of international oratory, a man becomes accustomed to finding the affairs of the world explained in lurid almost exclusively in extravagant figures of speech. But a steady diet of language as full of symbolism as a political cartoon tends in the long run to rob the situations under discussion of much of their reality.

A recent news story describes in literal terms the situation of a certain group of exiled Jews find themselves in. They are living on a barge moored in the Danube. They journeyed down the Danube without any certain notion of where they might find a refuge that was secure. The barge is now moored in an arm of the Danube that lies in Hungary. And Hungary has just announced that the Jews can no longer stay there. Friends in a nearby Czechoslovakian town are attempting to get the government to admit them, but they have already failed once. And Hungary is preparing to cut the mooring cables and set the barge and its human burden adrift.

It would be hard to imagine any figurative language with the power to suggest the tragedy of the European Jew today more vividly than this bare report of homeless men and women trapped on a barge.

Editorials on News (Continued from page 1.)

before.

SUPPOSE you alone were solvent in a community of ruined people. What would that mean? It would mean, of course, that

you were more fortunate than your neighbors. But it would mean also that your prospects of future business were practically nil. You can't do a big business in a community where everybody else is destitute.

REALIZATION of this fundamental fact is what caused the New York stock market to rebound sharply on the news that war in Europe may possibly be avoided.

Behind the Scenes In Washington By Rodney Dutcher

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.—The rush of propaganda intended to line up the United States with one or the other of the European factions has been going on for some time. Should war break, it will immediately redouble, and truth will be the first casualty in this as in all wars.

There will be less excuse for foreign propaganda as it is registered in accordance with a law which has just gone into effect. Others are seeking expert advice as to whether they have to register. If they do under the law, they must set down the names of their employers, the character of their activities, what they are paid, and what their duties are.

The intent of the law is to enable the American people to tell who is feeding them war propaganda. Registration data is open to all. Failure to register subjects the agent to a fine of \$1000 and a jail term up to two years.

Like the law, this one is not bullet-proof, and the administering office has been for weeks engaged in drawing up regulations interpreting the act. There is some doubt as to just how completely any such law can reveal the inner cogwheels of the propaganda machines, for deviousness is usually their first characteristic. But it should help, and the early rush of propagandists to register shows that at least some of the more obvious propaganda programs will be revealed for what they are, thus enabling people to divide their product by the proper common denominator.

Plenty Of Spies

Possibility of the Czechs being involved in war recalls their very effective propaganda in the United States which began the moment war was declared in 1914 and continued throughout the period of our neutrality, reinforcing of course as soon as the United States was in the war.

Thomas Manaryk had his man Voska on duty here early in 1914, raising funds, holding meetings, contacting newspapers and politicians. Working closely with the British Intelligence Service, especially Captain Gault and Sir William Wiseman, Voska established a spy service of his own which employed at least 80 people. And the exposure he made of German and Austrian plotting in this country helped materially to bring the United States into the war.

The large number of Americans of Czech blood not only provided Manaryk with more than a half-million dollars for such work, but in cities like New York, Chicago, Pittsburgh and Cleveland, which had and have large Czech populations, made his program a vital part of public opinion.

Voska was one of the ablest of all spies and propagandists who flooded the United States from European countries as soon as war began. His activities here were one of the largest factors that led to establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic which is now so gravely threatened.

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O.S.C. ENROLLMENT HITS NEW RECORD

CORVALLIS, Sept. 29.—(AP)—A steady march of late comers to the registration office shot enrollment of Oregon State college to an all-time record today.

Enrollment of 4114 students represented an 8 per cent increase from the corresponding date a year ago and 16 scholars more than the record established at the close of the fall term in 1937.

E. R. Lemon, registrar, said the pace continued. The number of students could reach 4400.

Deans and heads of departments announced more instructors would be necessary to handle the overflow classes.

NATIONAL GUARD INCREASE ASKED

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 28.—(AP)—Increase of the national guard to 425,000 men was asked to day by guard officers in convention here.

In a resolution unanimously adopted by delegates of the national guard association of the United States, the current threat of war in Europe was cited as emphasizing the need of arms to preserve peace.

Brigadier General James C. Dozier, Columbia, S. C., was elected president of the association. He received nine medals and citations for his world war service.

Baltimore, Md., was chosen for the next meeting, but no date was set.

OUT OUR WAY



THE DANGER LINE

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By Williams

EX-GERMAN SOLDIER COMMANDED HITLER

LITTLE FALLS, Minn., Sept. 30.—(AP)—Today, as Adolf Hitler plays a game of life and death in Europe, his old wartime sergeant is at work gathering in the harvest from his Morrison county farm.

He is Albert Patrick. For two years, from 1916 to 1918, Hitler was one of the five corporals under his command.

Patrick, a native Austrian, has been following closely the crisis dispatches. He doesn't think Hitler wants to fight—he simply couldn't after going through the carnage of the world war.