

Roseburg News-Review

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This One Kicked Back

EVEN before the new congress takes over, with its relatively even party balance, there is evident a new spirit of discrimination at the capital. Among other things, congress betrays strong reluctance now about granting sweeping powers to the executive.

This can prove good or bad. In the long run, obviously in time of war it is necessary for the executive to have certain powers which he cannot explain to the public, and therefore cannot discuss with congress as a whole.

But whether it is good or bad, President Roosevelt brought the change on himself, in good part, when by executive order he placed a \$25,000 top limit on net salaries, with certain minor adjustments.

Congress had refused, explicitly, to adopt a \$25,000 income limit, as demanded first by the communist party in its 1928 national platform; as proposed early this year by the union Automobile Workers' act; as sponsored by Mrs. Roosevelt in her syndicated column.

Congressmen are saying publicly that they had the promise of a recognized administration spokesman, when the president was given sweeping powers to act against inflation, that the \$25,000 limitation would not be imposed by executive order.

Now, rather naturally, the people's representatives are saying that they were flagrantly deceived and that they do not feel that they can trust the white house with future broad powers unless reservations are made explicitly to cover all contingencies.

Such reservations—or even their proposal—have the unfortunate effect at times of forcing Mr. Roosevelt to disclose things that might better not be discussed publicly. They open the way to prolonged, heated arguments in congress which delay action on pressing business.

Granting all these things, congress is acting within its proper rights when it insists on exercising control over matters of major policy.

The simple question whether anybody is entitled to receive more than \$25,000 net in salary, or in total income during any year does not directly affect enough individuals to create much future.

The question whether the executive, taking advantage of a wide discretion given to him for other purposes, can promulgate such an order, rejected by congress, seems to the lawmakers and to many others to be of tremendous importance.

That order has kicked back hard. Its reaction is going to bring a lot of gray hairs to the presidential head.

Editorials on News

(Continued from page 1.)

fore Stalingrad were premature. They seem to be narrowing the opening. If the jaws of the pinners formed by Russian columns driving from both north and south MEET the Germans will be penned in a triangle of which the Don river is the base and the railroads running west and south-west from Stalingrad are the sides.

Your map will make the situation clear. Without consulting your map, you can't hope to understand the situation.

You must remember also that the lines being formed around the Germans aren't a **SOLID RING OF STEEL**, as metaphorically described so often in the dispatches. There are **GAPS** in it. The ring around the Germans

is formed by cutting their lines of supply.

Supply (both men and materials) is one of the fundamentals of warfare.

IN the south Pacific, this problem of supply still dominates the fighting.

The Japs, failing to get relief by sea to their forces trapped on the Buna-Gona beaches, are reported to be dropping supplies from planes. One hundred bundles, the dispatches say, were dropped from nine large cargo planes escorted by 14 Zeros.

There is no additional news of importance from Guadalcanal as this is written.

NORMALLY, this writer can't work up much interest in talk of what we must do after the war.

The big job NOW is to WIN THE WAR.

If we don't win the war, the Japs and Germans will TELL us what to do—and we'll have to do it.

But Henry J. Kaiser, who is one of the really big figures emerging from our war effort, offers some conclusions that are too important to be ignored.

SPEAKING to the National Association of Manufacturers, he says:

"The first essential of the after-the-war world is a country-wide and world-wide OPPORTUNITY TO WORK."

He adds:

"The interests of organized labor in the enterprise system are identical with those of management and ownership."

Think that over. See if you don't agree with it.

THEN he says:

"If any one of us cherishes in his heart the illusion that he can recapture any of the SPECIAL PRIVILEGES or the unwarranted advantages of the past, or that he can once again build a power known as a VESTED INTEREST, let him consider the formation of a war debt that may ultimately come to three hundred BILLION dollars."

WHAT he means, this writer thinks, is this:

The war debt will wipe out ACCUMULATED wealth, and all we will have left will be our ability to PRODUCE. The squirrel whose parents filled the hole in the hollow tree can no longer live on the hoarded nuts but will have to get out and rustle nuts for himself.

In other words, we'll ALL have to work.

That sounds tough, but ISN'T for, after all, a world in which EVERYBODY WORKS is the best of all worlds. And production is the source of all wealth.

LETTERS to the Editor

THE PLIGHT OF THE AGED

To The Editor:

There is an adjustment that should be quickly made to meet the economic needs of our aged people, the forgotten group. Many of our aged citizens who were declared dependents by men drafted into service are being substantially aided by the government, not only with enough to live on, but with funds to buy bonds, which will be an element of aid in the post-war time. There are, however, millions who have no direct part in service who are all but forgotten. Think of the hardship growing out of present conditions. Their incomes are so meager they have had no increase although living costs have nearly doubled. This writer knows of thousands of such persons who are living in abject poverty. Those conditions prompt the question is this necessary? Is it necessary that these persons shall go hungry, poorly clothed and without warmth? It is necessary that such misery shall be added in the name of patriotism and to insure a military victory? What shall history and the epitaph writer say concerning those who die from such conditions?

If our aged people are so neglected, how, wherein lies the hope of their reward in the post-war days of reconstruction? If their cry for help cannot be heard now, if their grievances cannot be redressed, and their lives saved from want while they live, what then is this thing called justice? It is but mockery.

We appeal to the common sense of men and women everywhere to go direct to their respective congressmen and pray in the name of all that is just and decent that they shall give heed and extend that greatest virtue, mercy, unto such as these. Or should England set the pace first so the congress of the United States can follow?

JOSEPH W. LEMMER

OUT OUR WAY



Concerning the NORTHWEST As Viewed at the National Capital

By John W. Kelly

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 8.—High officials are trying to give the rush act to two pieces of proposed legislation. One is to permit the president to set aside the immigration laws and admit European refugees who are waiting in England, Mexico, Cuba and countries in Latin America for the opportunity to dash into the United States. The other is a bill, not yet introduced, which would enable Bonneville power administration to buy the Puget Sound Power & Light with "revenue bonds." Sponsors explain that this is the entire intent of this measure, just to take over the Puget sound private utility and not bother any other private company in the Bonneville-Grand Coulee area—Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

It is no secret that the white house is demanding the power to suspend the immigration laws and the tariff act. The white house has insisted on having this legislation passed before January 3, when this session of congress (the 77th) adjourns sine die. The recent resurgence of the republican party in both branches of congress, the white house apparently believes, would prevent the granting of these additional powers; therefore the present overwhelmingly new deal congress is looked to for accomplishing the job.

Explanation of administration leaders is that suspending the immigration act will simplify the movement of troops in and out of Canada and British Columbia, will facilitate the entry of foreign missions by removing red tape of the immigration service. Republican members do not object to these provisions but insist that these exceptions be specifically stated in the bill, and no other suspensions. Leaders of the administration say that the president should be given authority to admit European refugees and afford a haven for aliens for the duration and about five years thereafter. This is one of the fighting points. It is contended by opponents of the measure that once these aliens are admitted for a specified period it will be impossible to eradicate them later, and point to the thousands of refugees who have escaped Hitler and are on the fringe of the United States prepared to move in.

Bone Not Consulted

The bill to permit Administrator Paul Raver of Bonneville to acquire the Puget sound utility is supposed to have been written by the new counsel, picked by Raver in New Orleans. Lawyers of the north west were ignored in this selection. It is brief and to the point. The measure has been handed around on capital hill in the search for a sponsor. Harold L. Ickes says that this bill is all he wants; he is not shooting at any other utility in the territory. Oddly enough, Senator Homer T. Bone, sponsor of the Columbia power authority bill, was not consulted in this new proposal and up to a few days ago had no knowledge of its existence. There have been conversations with Lehman Bros., a financial house, concerning buying revenue bonds. Director Herbert H. Lehman of foreign relief and rehabilitation, was formerly a member of this firm. Quick action is desired on this bill before the new congress comes into being.

Tar Branding Frowned On

From earliest days when the sheep industry of the northwest

Jack Josse Tells Of Aid Given in Boston Holocaust

Jack Josse, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Josse of Roseburg, in training in the navy dental department at Boston, writes in a letter to his parents that he assisted in the work of removing bodies from the fire which destroyed the Coconut Grove a night club in Boston with a loss of nearly 500 lives.

"Around midnight an armed guard woke me up and told me to report to the information desk as fast as I could," Josse related. "They whizzed us to the Grove in beach wagons. When we arrived there the fire was out but they put us to work carrying out the victims."

Bodies were piled in heaps in front of the exits, Josse said. Many died of suffocation and others were trampled to death. One woman had a broken neck, and marks of footprints on her face and body, but was not burned, showing that she had been killed in the stampede.

"The inside of the building was a terrible mess," Josse wrote. "The place had been newly decorated with imitation palms and draperies that burned like tissue paper. Much imitation leather also was used and all this went up like tinder. It was the rapidity with which the fire spread that caused the panic."

Air Warning Service to Be Radio Program Topic

A special program, featuring the work of the aircraft warning service filter center at Roseburg, will be presented over radio station KRRR at 8:30 p. m. Wednesday. The program will include interviews with Captain John Truman Runyan, commanding officer, and several of the volunteer workers.

Arrives For Visit—Mrs. Carrie Ziegler, of San Francisco, who has been in Portland the last 10 days visiting her sister-in-law, Mrs. J. H. Sykes, arrived in Roseburg Monday, to visit at the home of her brother, S. K. Sykes, and two nieces, Mrs. L. J. Crafton and Mrs. Maxine Patchett. Mrs. Ziegler was accompanied from California to Portland by her daughter, Miss Zella, and her niece, Mrs. Joe Varni. Rhea Sykes, Mrs. Varni plans to remain in Portland for the duration of the war.

AMERICAN PATRIOT

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5. 144 sq. (abbr.).
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