

Observations on Congress From an Inside Viewpoint

By Harris Ellsworth, M.C.,
4th District of Oregon

The news of Congress these days is being made in committee rooms. Most committee meetings are open to the public. A visitor to Washington now, who would like to see Congress in session, would be thoroughly disappointed if he watched the operation of the House of Representatives from the visitors' gallery. Very little is happening on the floor at present.

During the early months of each session, the Appropriations Committee of the House is by far the hardest working committee. The large Appropriations body is divided into a number of subcommittees. These subcommittees are now conducting hearings. Of great interest to us right now is the work of the Interior Department Appropriations Subcommittee, where the question of how much money is to be allocated for additional power plant and transmission lines is under consideration.

Turkey Prices Bolstered
The Commodity Credit Corporation announced this week that new support prices have been made effective to bring the West Coast turkey market up to support price levels.

Late in 1946 and since, the price of turkeys in the West has been below the support price which is ninety per cent of parity. The national average prices, however, were still above the support price. Previously, support prices had been calculated only on a national average basis. Early in January, members of the Oregon delegation urged the Department of Agriculture to take action to save turkey producers from heavy losses of the unsold production, most of which was in storage.

Mr. William Guertz of the Oregon Poultry Council came to Washington with complete facts, and negotiations were begun toward revising existing procedures. Adjustments were made in the basis for calculating support prices and recommendations urged that support price operations be set up on a zone basis. Final approval was given to the program this week which will give relief to any part of the 1946 production which remains in the hands of the producers.

Tractors for Loggers
More than a year ago, I uncovered the fact that a number of tractors, badly needed for

lumber production, were "lost" in a maze of government red tape. The armed forces said they had declared the tractors surplus. The WAA said they were not in surplus. I asked that investigation be made with the result that the tractors shortly became available to the loggers. Last week a very similar situation was uncovered with respect to some ditch-diggers. The city of Ashland, Oregon, needed a ditcher to provide sewers for new housing. After considerable scouting, Ashland city officials found nineteen ditchers in a large surplus depot in California. But WAA said they belonged to the Navy. The Navy told me they had declared the ditchers surplus (but wished now they had not). Less than twenty-four hours after this situation was disclosed, the city of Ashland had purchased its ditcher.

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Pastor Quits Pulpit for Job With Shoe Company

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Feb. 19. —(P)—A Baptist minister resigned a prominent pastorate yesterday to go to work for a shoe company in a job which both feet is brand new to American industry — vice-president of Christian Relations.

The Rev. Dale D. Dutton, 46-year-old leader of the Central Baptist Church, is the new vice-president, and he says that he and two brothers, who headed the Bristol Manufacturing Co., consider his new title to be this: "A clergyman employed by industry to do good as he is led to do it."

Maurice C. Smith, Jr., company president, says Mr. Dutton will be backed by the company with funds which "might amount to \$100,000 a year."

"We don't expect to sell any more shoes because of our venture," Smith declared.

The United States in 1938 consumed 130,000,000 gallons of alcohol spirits, of which five percent was scotch.

Oregon Man Knifed During Fight at Brazil Carnival

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb. 18. —(P)—Richard Williamson of La Grande, Ore., suffered serious knife wounds last night during a fist fight in Largo Carioca, a downtown square, at the close of a carnival celebration.

Williamson, an engineer of the Maua Cement Co., an affiliate of the Portland Cement Co., received five long slashes across the

stomach with a knife or razor, witnesses said.

Police took him to a hospital where reports at noon said his condition was serious. Authorities said his assailant had not been identified, but belonged to a carnival party known as the "Grupo Dos Sujos" (dirty group). "This group is composed essentially of Negro elements," the police report said.

Henry Bagley, a former American war correspondent, and Alan Fisher, photographer for the U. S. information service, were among witnesses to the attack on Williamson, a large man known to his friends as "tiny." The carnival similar to the

New Orleans Mardi Gras, ended a disappointing three days and nights during which rain fell almost continuously. Police said they answered 888 calls and gave medical attention to 2,376 during the celebration.

Friendly Feline

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 20. —(P)—The cat at Ulysses Jones' farm home faces eviction to the barn because she added a newborn pig to her litter of four kittens.

Jones said he brought one of the seven newly born pigs into the house after he found it was sick. "Tabby showed sympathetic

interest," Jones said, "and soon was nursing the pig."

"But if she keeps it up, she'll have to move to the barn. We can't keep the pig in the house very long."

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