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CHARLES V. STANTON Editor
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TOO MUCH COMPETITION

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Congress now has before it legislation which would put the government into the telephone business in competition with existing service.

The proposed measure would authorize the Rural Electrification Administration to make 35-year loans at two percent interest to extend rural phone service.

According to figures furnished by telephone companies, approximately 85 percent of the total rural area of the country now has service available. The 15 percent not now provided with telephone communication is for the most part remote and sparsely settled. Installations in such areas would be expensive and unprofitable.

We can see, however, how nationalization of telephones would fit into the political picture.

It would be possible, for instance, to furnish the farmer a telephone and then pay him not to use it, the same as he is paid for not growing wheat. By a little judicious wire tapping on the party line, the government could locate any farmer who wasn't grateful for his gifts from the Great White Father and who could be pressured into voting the right ticket at the next election. Or, by encouraging more use of the subsidized rural telephones, the farmer and his wife, kept busy chatting with neighbors, wouldn't produce as much food, the government being worried over the fact that too much agricultural production may force down living costs and thus upset the high inflationary level necessary to the current free-spending national policies.

At least, it seems to be the intent of the administration to "let the voice of the farmer be heard."

The British Empire was built on a policy of government partnership with free enterprise. Today the rapidly diminishing Empire is practicing government OWNERSHIP rather than PARTNERSHIP. The weakening effect of that socialistic trend is most obvious.

Here in our own country we, too, are well committed to the welfare state, with its subsidies, and "benefits." We discourage honest and conscientious labor, thrift and ambition. We encourage a minimum of work for a maximum of pay. We "hide" the tax collected from the worker through the medium of withholding taxes which the worker does not realize are being taken from him. We discourage the investment of risk capital in free enterprise by pyramiding surtaxes on private income, "soaking the rich," and excessive corporation and income taxes. Then, in depression times, when private capital is not available to furnish employment, we resort to pump-priming through public works.

How much different the picture would be if our government would work as a partner with private industry.

We can find a ready example right here at home. We are wasting approximately two-thirds of the timber in our forests. Approximately one-half the timber is coming off publicly-owned lands. Ample processes exist to extract 100 percent of the values from a tree. Weyerhaeuser, for instance, has proven that nothing need be wasted. But installation of utilization processes is costly. Private industry, facing a tax system discouraging investment of risk capital, will not pioneer experimental installations.

If the federal government were interested in a partnership arrangement with private industry, instead of nationalization only, it would furnish the capital with which to set up plants to utilize the timber from public lands and then lease or sell the installations to private industry after operations had been proven profitable.

By such methods thousands of jobs would be created, additional sources for tax revenue would be made available to the government to pay the costs of its investments, free enterprise would be encouraged to take over an operation which had been proven practical, we would cease wasting a resource while building economic and moral strength instead of promoting weakness.

We need less interference and competition with free enterprise and more cooperation, encouragement and partnership.

Grange Would Restore Property Qualification For Voters On Tax

COOS BAY, June 17.—(AP)—Delegates to the annual state grange convention put an indefinite postponement on a tax committee recommendation for elimination of state property taxes. Then they approved the tax committee's resolution calling for restoration of property qualifications "for voting on all tax measures."

This latter action was directed against the people's vote last November which removed property tax qualification on voting in school bond elections.

Next year's convention will be held at Ontario, delegates decided in another vote yesterday after hearing a number of speeches on varied topics.

James T. Marr, secretary of the state federation of labor, said Oregon labor was with the grange in approval of a Columbia Valley administration.

Gov. Douglas McKay said that as Oregon grows—a population of 2,000,000 or more is forecast for 1960—there must be planning. He spoke of increased stream pollution and slum areas as two problems arising with industrialization.

The governor said there must be conservation of soil, water, timber, wildlife and taxes. Conservation of taxes, he said,

OCCUPATION IS GOOD

TOKYO.—(AP)—Of the 400,000 fan letters received by Gen. Douglas MacArthur from the Japanese, one stands out.

It is from Masashige Takahashi. He approved the Allied occupation commander's work so enthusiastically that he wound up asking MacArthur to become his brother.

There is no record of MacArthur's reply.

Incorrigible



Scrapes from the MENDING BASKET

By Viachett S. Martin

"The Dallas News," said my ex-Texan, "put out a 442-page Sunday edition on May 22." His casual tone suddenly turned to surprise. "Funny nobody sent us one!"

I glanced at the Texas Almanac which the Dallas News has been publishing for ninety-one years. It stands in the long row of bookshelves I keep handy on a shelf over my desk in the kitchen. The World Almanac takes 912 pages to cover its field; the Texas Almanac just begins to tell about TEXAS in its six hundred pages.

The first issue was in 1857. "A compendium which in addition to telling Texans themselves . . . could be used to bring population by migration." Now the Roseburg Book Store proprietor told me the other day that the one hundred copies he orders annually of the World Almanac "sell like hotcakes." Imagine how Texans storm their bookstores the day the new Texas Almanac comes out!

Each of the 254 counties is mapped, pictured and described in detail. It doesn't bother to tell about postage rates, but it thoughtfully lists the 2,017 post-

offices in Texas where you can find out. It also lists the 3,450 "towns of all sizes from the crossroads hamlet of less than ten persons to Houston with 565,000" . . . gives the number of businesses in each, too!

I imagine the advertisers stand in line to "be in the Texas Almanac." Other states, Oregon for instance, has advertisers. Why not an Oregon Almanac? Maybe not 600 pages—to begin with, but we could do it!

The Dallas News first distinguished itself with its "first hand reporting of the Mexican War" . . . followed by its "coverage in the era of the war between the states, despite the drastic shortage of manpower and newsprint." Other "reputational achievements" are listed in the 5-page history of the News. There are nine pages for "The Calendar for Texas." Then the history of Texas . . . and the answers to just about anything one might want to know about the Lone Star State. There's a good index in the back.

The Dallas News, in the business for over a hundred years, certainly does a fine thing in publishing its Texas Almanac. Good reading!

Why? Well, there just won't be room enough in the downtown streets to hold the cars.

Here's another prediction: We'll all be madder than wet hens when it is done, but after we've got used to it we'll LIKE it because it will speed up traffic in the busy streets, cut down the number of bashed fenders and make it easier and quicker to get where we're going.

WE'VE been dealing here with what transpires in American and British courts and the human nature that enters therein. Let's take a long jump—clear into Communist Albania.

There, according to a dispatch from London, the Albanian vice-premier, one Koci Xoxe, has just been shot before a wall by a firing squad. He had been convicted by the Albanian Communist high court of "traitorous activities"—his treason consisting of siding with Yugoslavia's Tito in Tito's feud with the Russian-sponsored Cominform.

"I'm quite sure I prefer the American way."

Columbia Forest Now Bears Pinchot's Name

WASHINGTON, June 17.—(AP)—President Truman's signature Wednesday changed the name of Columbia National Forest in the State of Washington to Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

Pinchot, who died in 1946, was the first chief of the U. S. Forest Service. Throughout his adult life he was a prominent conservationist. He was a Republican who served two terms as governor of Pennsylvania.

The forest, which Pinchot helped establish, covers both sides of the Cascade range from the divide between the Nisqually and Cowlitz Rivers and the foothills of Mt. Rainier south to the Columbia Gorge. It includes about 1,263,000 acres.

The area of Norway is 124,556 square miles.

Senate Approval Of Military Pay Raise Indicated

WASHINGTON, June 17.—(AP)—A warm Senate welcome Thursday greeted the battered—but only slightly bent—military pay bill.

It passed the House Wednesday on a voice vote after several vain attempts to shave down increases for the top brass and to cut extra pay for flight and submarine duty.

Chairman Tydings (D-Md.) of the Senate Armed Services committee promptly announced that hearings would open on the bill today with Secretary of Defense Johnson as the first witness, backed by a staff of military pay experts armed with charts and figures.

It took two tries to get the measure through the House. It was opposed both times by young World War II veterans who wanted to concentrate the largest pay raises in the junior officer and enlisted ranks.

The first bill would have cost about \$406,000,000 a year. Increases under it would have ranged from about three per cent for the next to lowest enlisted rank up to almost 50 per cent for brigadier generals and Navy officers of equivalent rank.

The new bill, which the House debated for two days, would cost about \$358,000,000 for the first full fiscal year it is in effect, but this would drop off to about \$302,000,000 a year after 1952.

The individual increases would run from three per cent for the lowest rank after four months' duty up to about 37 per cent for brigadier generals. There also is a provision continuing family allowances for enlisted men through current enlistments.

The new pay scales, product of the first general military pay revision since 1908, would go into effect October 1 this year. The bill would apply to all the uniformed services, their reserves, the National Guard and the Air National Guard.

The bill would create a special fourth grade enlisted rank for men with seven years' or more service. Men in this category would go from \$141 a month to \$238—an increase of 69 per cent, the largest in the bill.

Melrose

Mrs. Georgia Imrie Funk and her son Billy of Los Angeles, Calif., are visiting the former's mother, Mrs. Everett Cooper, and other relatives here.

Mrs. Nellie Meyers went to Portland with Mr. and Mrs. Hunsford for a few days of visiting and shopping last week.

Jim Reece of Seattle is spending a few weeks visiting his brother, Fred T. Reece. They went to Sutherlin Thursday to visit with Mr. and Mrs. Conard Lundeen.

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Bushnell of Coquille visited one day last week with Mr. and Mrs. O. O. Matthews.

The local Campfire group, with their leader Miss Betty Siddham, camped out at the forks last Wednesday night and Thursday in order to earn a rank in their work.

Mr. and Mrs. K. L. Conn and their son Blake, attended the rodeo at Grants Pass last Saturday and on Sunday, visited the Oregon Caves.

Mrs. Paul Krueger spent last Tuesday in Eugene where she shopped and took her small grandson to the circus.

Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Ransome of Spokane, Wash., spent the Memorial Day week-end at the home of the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Ransome.

Mrs. Joe Matthews accompanied Mrs. Dora Ritzman to K. Falls last week where they attended the wedding of the latter's nephew.

Mr. Lee Brown suffered a fractured back, when he fell from a cherry tree at his home in Elgarose last Wednesday. He is in hospital in Roseburg.

Mrs. Amy Kruse and her

Communists In Cold War Now On Defense; Showdown Held Likely In Yugoslavia

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

WASHINGTON, June 17.—(AP)—State Department officials found evidence today that even the Communists feel they are now on the defensive in the cold war in Europe.

The clue to what may be a radical turn in communist leadership estimates of the East-West conflict came in a bulletin of the Communist International Information Bureau.

As reported from Bucharest, Romania, where it is published, the bulletin declared it is now the "cardinal task" of Communists to block the spread of Americanism.

Officials here took an interesting look at the defensive nature of this declaration. They said that this, coupled with the charge that the United States is trying to "poison" working classes with American ideas, indicates the Soviet-led Cominform is deeply concerned over the West's success to date in fighting Communism.

They speculated that this concern now dominates top Communist thinking in contrast with an earlier Communist preoccupation with expansion of their own power and influence. If this analysis is correct, it may mark a switch in Communist tactics in Europe—from primary emphasis on expansion westward to a new stress on holding the line in Eastern Europe.

Yugoslavia Testing Ground

This view of what the Communists themselves may believe is in accord with official American estimates of the cold war struggle. According to these, the next phase of the battle between Western influences and Soviet Communism—apart from Germany—may well lie in Eastern Europe, with Yugoslavia providing the initial testing ground.

Several current developments are cited to support this view. On the western side these include:

1. Negotiations between Britain and Yugoslavia for an \$800,000,000 trade agreement under which Yugoslavia would receive badly-needed manufactured goods.
2. A conference this week in Paris between Secretary of State Acheson and American Ambassador Cannon, envoy to Belgrade, on relations with Yugoslavia. This also is believed to have been concerned with making available to Marshal Tito a greater flow of goods from the west.
3. Diplomatic authorities here expect a continued loosening of American restrictions on trade with Tito, short of allowing him to buy materials having military value.

The American government also is prepared to support a Yugoslav application for a multi-million dollar loan from the World Bank for industrial development purposes.

Target of Cominform

On the Communist side, all signs indicate that the Cominform is getting ready to try to crush Tito. This may take the form of intensifying the eco-

daughter Darlene, went to Portland Thursday to attend the Rose Festival. Also attending the rose show were Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Busenbark.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Kenyon and their four children left Thursday evening for Southern California to visit Mrs. Kenyon's father, who is quite ill.

George Handy spent several days last week in Eugene visiting his daughter, Florence Knutson, and her family.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Ransome were given the first and second degree obligations at the Melrose grange meeting last Tuesday night. During the program hour, Herman Adelyotte showed moving pictures. The ladies were appointed to close grange while the men prepared the refreshments. They served a two-course supper to forty members attending.

Mrs. Louis Sweely left Sunday for Hayward, Calif., to spend a week visiting relatives and friends. She went down with her uncle, from Riddle, who will spend a month at Carmel, Calif.

Mrs. Floyd Beck (Genova Fritts) and baby son arrived this week from Fairbanks, Alaska, to spend two months visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Fritts on Doerner Road. Mr. Beck is manager of a general store there.

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District Oregon Offices Planned By Health Dept.

PORTLAND, June 17.—(AP)—District offices for sanitation personnel will be established throughout Oregon by the State Board of Health.

At present a state restaurant inspector is headquartered at Pendleton, and state plumbing inspectors at Salem and Eugene. All others must travel from Portland.

Dr. Charles E. Hunt, president of the State Board, said district offices would cut travel expenses and simultaneously "result in better public health service." The offices will be located in existing County Health Department quarters.

Reservations for private Skating Parties are available at the Rainbow Skating Rink Winchester



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