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Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

TRUMAN PAST REVEALING OF PRESENT

(Oregon City Enterprise)

As the President continues to berate his own Democratic Congress for doing nothing, and Senator Scott Lucas, Administration floor leader strives to fix the blame on the Southern Democrats and the Republicans, it is gratifying to call up, as the Republican National Committee's researchers have, some things Mr. Truman said while senator himself, Charles L. Egenroad, for the committee, points it out in the committee's weekly news letter. He goes back to Mr. Truman's speech March 21, 1939 before the Missouri State Legislature.

At that time President Truman was a new member of the United States Senate, and had returned to his native State to tell the Legislature all about his job in Washington.

In the course of his remarks he said:

"I found out very soon after I had settled down to a study of my duties that the business of a good legislator is not to get things done quickly and efficiently, as a good administrator has to do, but to prevent, if possible, the enactment into the law of the land many crazy and crackpot measures."

That is just what the 81st Congress is doing; preventing enactment into the law of the land many "crazy and crackpot measures" which seem to come from

the White House.

As President, Mr. Truman has constantly berated at loggerheads with the legislators on Capitol Hill. During the Democrat-controlled 79th Congress the fight began. He really got into full battle array during the Republican 80th Congress, which he lampooned as the "worst in history," which history and the facts actually prove it not to have been, making a very loose talker out of the President.

Now the 81st Congress, again controlled by a heavy Democrat majority, is constantly under fire from the White House.

Has Mr. Truman forgotten what he said in a letter to the St. Louis Star-Times on March 6, 1944, about the treatment of Congress by the late President Roosevelt when the latter talked tough to Congress in a tax bill veto message?

Mr. Truman, then a senator, wrote in that letter:

"Had the President returned the tax bill with a plain statement that he did not think it produced enough revenue, I don't think there is a doubt in the world but what both the Senate and the House of Representatives would have supported the veto, but when he attacked the integrity and the intelligence of the Senate and the House of Representatives he got just exactly what was coming to him."

In this instance the past is quite revealing of the confused present in the White House.

Workers With Disabilities Turn Out Good Production

George Foster, manager of the Roseburg office of the Oregon State Employment Service today announced that an official government survey of the comparative work abilities of handicapped and non-handicapped workers had demonstrated that workers with disabilities have just as good production and safety records as able-bodied workers.

Foster said the survey conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor in cooperation with the Veterans Administration covered 11,028 impaired and 18,288 unimpaired employees working side by side in 109 separate employer establishments. On the job comparisons were made, he added, of the absenteeism, production, safety, and quit rates of the impaired and unimpaired workers.

"This scientific and comprehensive survey should prove of the utmost value in the placement of workers with physical handicaps," Foster said. "It demonstrates what thousands of employers learned during the war and subsequent post-war years, that when properly placed, the worker with a physical handicap is just as productive and satisfactory an employee as the able-bodied worker. I hope that it will remove the impression that physical impairment means less efficiency or a greater risk to the employer."

Foster said, workers of the same sex, age, and employment conditions were matched so that unrelated factors would not affect the findings. The survey was limited to manufacturing industries, where pertinent records were more accurately maintained and more easily compared for large groups of workers.

Physically impaired workers in the group included orthopedic, hearing, vision, hernia, cardiac, tuberculosis, peptic ulcer, diabetic and epileptic. Many of the workers had two or more of these physical impairments.

In absenteeism, the impaired group showed a rate of 3.8 per 100 scheduled work days compared with 3.4 for the unimpaired. This represents only one more day's absence per year for the unimpaired. In both the impaired and unimpaired groups, 23 percent had no absences, while 6 percent had excessively high rates of 30 days or more per 100 work days.

In nondisabling injuries (those causing less than a day's absence), the impaired and unimpaired showed an identical rate of 9.9 injuries per 10,000 exposure hours. In both groups, 50 percent of the workers had no injuries of any kind, while 1 percent in both groups had unusually high rates. In each of seven different types of injuries, the difference between the two groups was less than 1 of 1 percent.

Contradicting popular belief, the impaired workers showed an even lower rate than the unimpaired in disabling injuries causing absence of a day or more. Here the rate for the physically disabled was 8.9 injuries per million exposure hours, while the rate for the non-disabled group was 9.5. The average days of disability were 14.5 and 1.9 for the impaired and unimpaired groups, respectively.

In measuring work performance, only those in jobs for which there was individual production data were used. This included 895 impaired and 1,407 unimpaired workers. Using 100 as the rate for the unimpaired, the impaired

showed a slightly higher rate of 101.

The survey showed that impaired workers are stable workers. The quit rate for the impaired workers was 3.6 per hundred as compared with 2.6 for the unimpaired workers. In this connection the written report on the finding of the survey prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Veterans Administration stated, "It is questionable whether the difference is significant. It is interesting that the quit rate attributed to dissatisfaction with the job was identical in the two groups."

Flight Training Regulations For Veterans Eased

Veterans may now take flight training under the G.I. Bill without necessarily submitting to the Veterans Administration complete justification that the course will be taken in connection with their contemplated business or occupation.

Instead of complete justification, a veteran planning to take G. I. flight training now may submit to the VA a certificate in the form of an affidavit, together with corroborating affidavits by two competent disinterested persons. The affidavits must show that flight training will be useful to him in connection with earning a livelihood.

The expression "competent disinterested persons" means persons who are qualified by reason of their personal knowledge of facts and circumstances to testify concerning the use of flight training by the veteran in connection with his earning a livelihood, and who, except as to present or prospective employers, have no interest whatsoever, either personal or by association, in the pursuit or non-pursuit by the veteran of the desired course of flight training.

For the purpose of this definition supporting affidavits by members of a veteran's family or by employees or owners of flight schools will not constitute evidence of disinterested persons. In any event, corroborating affidavits must establish clearly and definitely the identity of the affiant, the character of his relationship or association with the claimant, and the basis and source of his asserted knowledge of the matters to which he testifies.

In the absence of substantial evidence to the contrary, the VA will accept the affidavits as constituting compliance with the laws.

If they wish, veterans desiring flight training may submit complete justification that the training would be in connection with their present or contemplated business or occupation, rather than submit affidavits authorized by the new law, the VA said. This is the procedure which has been in effect during the past year.

Pacific U. 100 Years Old
 FOREST GROVE, Sept. 26.—(AP)—The 100th birthday of Pacific university was celebrated here yesterday, with Gov. Douglas McKay sending good wishes from the state of Oregon. The university actually reached its 100th year Friday, but centennial ceremonies were delayed until the Sunday holiday.

John's Amazing Signal System



Soaps from the MENDING BASKET
 By Viahnett S. Martin

"Suffering catfish!" I've heard EJ say when the boys tried his patience, or perhaps I have taken too long getting ready. "Suffering catfish!" For thirty years, I've heard him tell how he and his father used to run a trot line across the Colorado (down there in Texas I noticed they stepped hard on that 'a' and made it good and flat). Camping out with his father was a great adventure, one he still likes to recall.

"When the bell on the trot line would jingle, Papa and I would get in the boat, and pull up the hooks. Sure enough there would be a good sized catfish on one or another of the hooks. With nine children I guess Papa didn't mind taking home a few fish! Best eating a person could want."

Well, when EJ pulled up a catfish at Lake Tahkenitch he was as pleased as could be! "Catfish! what do you know!" I looked at the ugly thing, and heard its grunting protest. . . I had never seen one before! But that night I cooked several, and they were

indeed delicious eating! I noticed the same pleased look come into other faces when they saw the catfish. "Tell you where you can get some catfish," said one fisherman who had tried for bass all day and had nothing to show for his labors. "Over at Tenmile lake." So to Tenmile lake we went next weekend. "A butcher who rented one of our boats showed me," friendly Mrs. Garwood explained, delighted to share her knowledge. She laid a fish before her, picked up the knife and the fish did a sudden flip-flop back into the lake. "It was worth losing the fish!" laughed EJ "to see her face as she stood there, holding the knife, watching that fish 'lop into the water!'"

Of course EJ has to have fish fried with cornmeal. We had a delicious dinner that evening in our cabin at Currier's Village: catfish fried a glistening golden brown. Good eating, indeed!

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

more and more power in the hands of fewer and fewer men in the executive branch of the federal government.

"We see that illustrated in a very dramatic way by the administration's proposal to have three men selected by the President take complete administrative control of the river resources of the Pacific Northwest.

"I believe we must co-ordinate agencies, both federal and state, but we must do it without sacrificing local rights and local responsibilities of government."

But so far as I am concerned I would rather take my chances on the orderly development of this region through the normal American processes of free enterprise—aided, as it has been in the past, by such reasonably normal government projects as reclamation of land and development of power—than to turn our area over lock, stock and barrel to a three-man government commission to be used as a laboratory for whatever socialistic experimenting our government in Washington may want to do in the future.

I think we'll be better off in the long run if we go on hoeing our own row.

of an administration of heavy spenders to the pouring of vast sums of money into our area. During the period of construction alone, not to mention the later period of utilization, this would be a potent shot in the arm. The war is so recent that we know all about that. The construction payrolls brought tremendous development to the communities in which the war installations were located. None of us can have any delusions as to that.

Turning over to three men selected by the President complete administrative control of the river resources of the Pacific Northwest appears to me to be a clear case of putting too much power in too few hands, with the strong probability that it will remain there too long.

When you put that much power in the hands of only three men, you usually find that they have a hard time getting it away from them. As the years pass, they become so completely a part of the system they have created that it never seems to be possible to untangle the men from the job.

PERSONALLY, I don't doubt that creation of a Columbia Valley administration would bring enlarged and perhaps greatly hastened industrial development to the Pacific Northwest. It would commit the fortunes

Merger Of Insurance Companies Effected

SEATTLE, Sept. 27.—(AP)—A merger of the Washington National Insurance company and the Great Northern Life Insurance company was announced today by Kenneth Mullins, executive vice-president of the Washington company.

Life, accident and health insurance policies of Great Northern, as well as its agencies and home office in Evanston, Ill., will be taken over by the Washington company. Combined assets of the two total \$112,068,434. G. R. Kendall, president of the Washington company, will head the new organization, which will do business as the Washington National Insurance company.

Farm Buyers And Sellers Said About At Stalemate In West States

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26.—(AP) Farm buyers and sellers were about at a stalemate in the western states this year.

The Agriculture department reports that despite sliding crop prices, land values dropped less than one per cent in the Rocky mountain and Pacific coast areas from March to July and that only about 52 farms in a thousand changed hands during the year ended March 15.

Voluntary sales in the Mountain states were down about 10 per cent from the peak of 61.5 per thousand in 1946. In the Pacific states the peak was reached at 70.2 per thousand in 1947 and the ratio per thousand farms had dropped to 52.3 as of March 15 this year.

Forced sales in the Mountain states were at their lowest point in the past quarter century—a fraction over one in a thousand farms. Such sales in the Coast states reached bottom with 1.1 per thousand two years ago. They represented 1.7 in a thousand this year.

The department's survey indicated most buyers throughout the country are in a generally safe financial situation and it predicted that the volume of farm sales will drop generally during the next year, even if there are further declines in farm real estate values.

In the four months ended July 1, land values in four of the 11 far western states were unchanged. These were California, Idaho, Utah and Arizona.

In five others, there was a decrease of but one per cent. Values in Montana and Wyoming dropped two per cent, to equal the national average.

The average decline for the western area thus was but one per cent for the four months, compared to drops of 5 per cent in the Mountain area and 6 per cent in the coast section in the previous four months.

Land values in the Mountain states are still more than double those of 1940, while those along the coast are only slightly less than 100 per cent greater.

For purposes of comparison, the department uses acreage values of 1912-14 as 100. The bottom was reached in

1940, the top in 1948 in each of the western states. The March 1949 ratios, with comparable figures for 1948 and for 1940, includes: Washington 166, 181 and 100; Oregon 151, 168 and 100.

MURDER CHARGE DENIED

PENDLETON, Sept. 27.—(AP)—Robert Morris, 39, cook on the McNary project, pleaded innocent to a first degree murder charge in circuit court here Monday.

Morris is being held without bail in the county jail charged with the murder of William Frost, 29, Hermiston, April 3, following a dance hall fight, east of Hermiston.

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