

# The News-Review

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## ECONOMY IN SCHOOLS

By CHARLES V. STANTON

W. M. Tugman, managing editor of the *Bugene Register-Guard*, has raised editorial objection to duplication of courses in the state's schools of higher education.

Referring to the act of the Oregon legislature in 1929, demanding elimination of duplication, Editor Tugman points out that the law resulted from "a revolt of the people against the endless competition of the schools for appropriations, their disgust with the many wasteful and useless duplications."

The current objection refers to a plan of the State Board of Higher Education to set up a school of physical education at Oregon State college, closely duplicating the existing course at the University of Oregon. A little more than a year ago, Tugman says, "the board authorized a school of business and technology at Oregon State, in the main duplicating the school of business administration at the university."

Charles A. Sprague, editor of *The Oregon Statesman*, commenting on the same subject, says:

The money requirements of higher education are high, very high. Also the money requirements of other functions are high, very high—so high in fact that present sources of income do not seem adequate to meet all demands. It therefore is incumbent on this state board and on all other state boards and departments to scrutinize very closely any expansion which will call for more expense. Unless some modern Moses can strike a rock and make it flow money abundantly, someone is going to go away from the legislative spring with an empty cup some day.

The issue of duplication and waste is not a problem exclusive to our schools of higher education.

Periods of prosperity lead to expensive living. This is true with the individual, with business and with public corporations. Because we have money with which to pay for frills and luxuries we let down the bars of economy.

The school problem is one requiring much more public attention than it is receiving. Costs have mounted tremendously. Yet, despite expenditures bringing virtually every school district to the limit of bonded indebtedness, we still are faced with necessity of again doubling capacity within the next few years. Teaching and administrative costs have skyrocketed. Additional state revenue for public schools was obtained at the last session of the legislature but still more will be asked through the so-called "Children's Bill" soon to be submitted to the voters, proposing to increase basic support funds from \$50 to \$80 per pupil.

We doubt that waste, extravagance and duplication represent a very serious load percentage-wise, when compared with the money essential to school operation. However, the time has come, we believe, to carefully study the school system, from the smallest rural school, through our institutions of higher education, to determine where economies can be put into effect and where "frills," if any, may be eliminated.

We cannot agree with some observers that depression is just around the corner. While we cannot expect inflationary conditions to continue forever, nor expect deficit spending and pump-priming to keep us from falling from our economic stilts, we can, if we switch from a Santa Claus theory of politics to a solid, thrifty, balanced-budget national economy, while encouraging venture capital to produce employment instead of driving it into hiding, preserve a high-level prosperity for many more years.

But even though we continue a prosperous economy, we cannot afford extravagance in a school system already demanding an excessive share of the tax dollar and which inevitably will need far more money for expansion, operation and administration than at present.

The "revolt" which Editor Tugman mentions came in 1929 in the closing days of another period of prosperity during which our school administration had become lax. History seems to be repeating itself. Past experience should cause us to heed wise counsel.

## Congress Chat

By HARRIS ELLSWORTH, M. C.

Fourth District, Oregon

All field reports on the Rogue river reclamation project will be in the hands of Department of Interior officials here within a few days. This project, which if approved by Congress, would provide flood control, irrigation and power to the Rogue river valley. The survey has been under way for ten years but thus far no formal recommendation has been made by the Department. Department action is now expected within two or three weeks.

Last fall the Department told me their study of the proposal would be completed and ready for submission to Congress early in January. The failure to meet that schedule was due, I am informed, by delay in the completion of data from the field offices.

After all data is in the Washington office the project will be interviewed by the Program Committee of the Department of Interior. That committee is made up of the bureau heads of the Department. It then goes to the Secretary for his approval or rejection. If it is approved it is submitted to the Governor of the State and to interested Government departments for their comments and suggestions. Following the completion of this procedure the report on the pro-

posed project is sent to Congress. There is no way of accurately estimating how much time all this routine will take, but I am ready to guess now that there will be no Congressional action on the project during this session.

After hearing about the weather troubles in Oregon the last few weeks I almost hate to mention our good fortune here so far as weather is concerned. Thus far Washington, D.C. has had no winter. Usually snow storms and temperatures well below freezing is the menu here during January and February. This year January temperatures well below freezing is the high side. I just noticed that a beautiful pink flowering shrub near the capitol, which ordinarily does not bloom before April, is in full blossom now.

Southern members of Congress violently oppose the bills which constitute what is called the Civil Rights Program. In the Senate, the Southern minority uses prolonged debate called a filibuster to block these bills. Due to the size of our membership, all House debate is limited. The delaying action used by the Southerners in the House is to demand roll calls—any members may demand a roll call if it is ascertained that a quorum of members is not present on the floor. It takes half an hour to call the roll. On days when the pending FEPC bill (Fair Employment Practices) may be called up, we

## Mao, He's Makin' Eyes at Me . . .



## LETTERS to the Editor

### Questions Arise Over Various Forms of Tax

GLENDALE—We hear and read quite a lot these days about taxes, income tax, sales tax, property tax, and so on and on.

It puts a lot of unanswered questions in our mind.

A couple of things about property tax are freely admitted: 1. That property is already overtaxed, and "we ain't seen nothin' yet," unless other arrangements are made. 2. That property tax is an unfair tax, as no consideration is taken as to a fellow's ability to pay. And "property" doesn't mean a thing, as property doesn't always have an income, but it still has the tax to pay.

Big pardon for bringing our own affairs into this picture, but we take a guess that we are not alone in this boat.

Our taxes have been multiplied by nine during the last seven or eight years, and other expenses have also skyrocketed, and at the same time our income has shrunk, until during this last year our expense and income met, and passed each other; and now comes the necessity of re-arranging so as to balance the budget. (We are not U.S.)

We hear talk of a sales tax relieving property tax, but the question comes, would it? We are of the opinion that it would not, unless a trade should be made, something like this: That all property tax for schools be discontinued, and a retail sales tax be established in its place, for schools only. And as school expenses rose so would the percent of the tax. A sales tax added to our other taxes is no relief, as is already shown by just taking a look at Washington and California.

We wonder just how much our taxes would have raised if the fellow who spends the money should be the same bird who digs it up. Now we feel that here is a plan that will lift some of the load off property, and at the same time is equitable.

C. E. YOUNG  
Glendale, Ore.

### Underground Nazi Gang Is Probed

FRANKFURT, Germany, Feb. 8.—(AP)—American agents disclosed today they are investigating a secret Nazi underground organization active in Germany, a new brand of Hitlerism in Germany.

The size of the underground group is unknown but one official called it "certainly dangerous." "It must be watched," he added. "On the other hand, its importance should not be over-emphasized."

Calling itself the "Katakombenbewegung" (catacomb movement), the underground movement has its headquarters somewhere in Munich, birthplace of Hitler's Nazi organization. American officials said. It publishes a secretly distributed newspaper glorifying Nazism and brands all Germans who opposed Hitler as traitors.

American agents said they are making a full investigation to uncover its strength and leadership, how it is financed and how it distributes its illegal literature.

## Scrapes from the MENDING BASKET

By Viannett S. Martin

"Now I'm twelve," said Bruce N., our neighbor from two miles beyond us on the old territorial road, "I'm going to be a Boy Scout."

Then he and E J talked about other things. Obviously, Bruce had a clear idea of logging; he mentioned helping his dad on their place. He could drive a 'cat'; peel a log; he assured us he could "set a choke," but he had to explain what that meant.

Then they discussed animals hereabouts . . . We had been having a most unwelcome visitor who had squeezed in the edge of a wired vent. E J was loath to do anything that might hurt our family cat, Pretty, so he had opened some vents and hoped for the best.

Bruce said he would bring down a trap and take care of that for us! He would close up the vents so Pretty couldn't get in. But, said E J didn't think the results of trapping under the house might be worse than another day or so of patient waiting for the visiting 'cat' to vomit of its own accord? Well, maybe so, agreed Bruce. (P.S. It did! Thanks!) Although E J didn't do so well

on logging, he could hold his own all right on the trapping. He told of the way he had added variety to the family meals by using traps, and his gun. In that Texas countryside E J had learned to shoot at so young an age he couldn't ever remember not having a gun of his own. For an hour Bruce and E J talked man to man fashion on a lot of things—oh, yes, I put in just a word or so. (You know what E J will say when he reads this in the News-Review!)

After Bruce left, E J and I talked a long while about boys, our own, and those of his boyhood days, and Bruce, and other boys we know here in Oregon. We decided that Bruce was due for a surprise when he begins to study the Boy Scout Handbook. We could imagine him studying the pictures of animal tracks and nodding his head: "Uh-huh, that's the way they look." He may smile when he reads about learning to use an axel and building a fire! and distinguishing trees! He will collect merit badges very quickly when he starts in. He is the type that will aim for an Eagle Scout collection!

### Irresponsible Plan To Jam Phone Lines During Strike Intolerable

By BRUCE BLOSSAT

The last time the nation suffered a major telephone strike its crippling effects were reduced because company officials and supervisory workers manned the lines and afforded essential minimum service.

Now another telephone strike confronts the country. Joseph Beirne, president of the Communications Workers of America (CWA), says he sees no way to avoid it.

But this time the union thinks it has found a plan that will make the stoppage more effective. Beirne has asked Philip Murray, CIO head, to request the 6,000,000 members of the CIO to use their telephones "all they can" during a strike.

The idea is simple. Heavy usage would overburden the automatic dial telephone system and cause it to break down in many spots. Once out of order, it would stay that way, because maintenance and repair workers would be among the strikers.

Murray has not said in so many words that he approves Beirne's plan. He has merely promised the communications union "every possible assistance and support" in its dispute with the companies.

If he reflects soberly on the full meaning of this idea, Murray will flatly reject it. It would mean an intolerable interruption of vital services.

No doubt union officials grow weary of being reminded that stoppages in fields like communications and transportation affect the public health and safety. They probably believe this point is over-emphasized as an excuse for not dealing fairly with the workers involved.

But they must know in their hearts that the nation cannot now or ever allow a 100 percent strike in telephone service, rail transport, or similar fields. Too many activities indispensable to the people's welfare are dependent on these services.

Suppose, as a good union man, you decide to comply with Beirne's request. You make ten or more unnecessary calls a day. Then you learn that because of a breakdown in telephone service your neighbor couldn't get an ambulance to take his ailing wife to the hospital. How would you feel?

Beirne's proposal is thoroughly

## Churchill Victory Would Ease Cut On ECA Funds

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—(AP)—Senators said today the British general election this month will have a strong influence on how much money Congress will approve for Europe's recovery.

They said that if Winston Churchill and his Conservatives return to power Congress will be less likely to make a heavy cut in Marshall plan spending, but if the labor government wins out the cut may be drastic.

Senator Smith (R-N.J.), a supporter of the European Recovery program, told a reporter there is no doubt a Conservative victory would "make it much easier" to get congressional approval of the third-year program.

The reason, he said, is that Congress would have more confidence in the British government's economic and social welfare policies under Churchill.

Smith said many members of Congress do not agree with the labor government's nationalization of industries and its economic and social policies.

"If the labor government returns to power with its same policies," he said, "it will be like pulling teeth to get money for Europe."

Trade Barriers Faced  
Others agreed, Senator Ferguson (R-Mich.), a member of the Senate Appropriations committee, said a conservative victory would ease the pressures against the ECA program.

"The real problem now is to get those countries to drop their trade barriers and find a market for their goods," he said.

Chairman Connally (D-Tex.) of the Senate Appropriations committee also said he believes the British election Feb. 23 may have an influence on the recovery plan.

The administration has asked Congress for \$3,100,000,000 to carry the program through the coming year, a large share of this would go to Britain.

Budget Cut Favored  
But Connally said yesterday that ECA chief Paul Hoffman had indicated he might be willing to take a cut below this figure. He didn't indicate how much.

Connally has said ECA should be cut down to about \$2,775,000,000 this year. And chairman McKellar (D-Tenn.) of the Senate Appropriations committee is plugging for a 25 percent cut in the ECA budget request.

The Organization for European Economic cooperation — "Troop" — announced last night that western Europe will need from \$4,700,000,000 to \$5,000,000,000 in the next two years to hold the line against Communism.

The OECC report said the billions already poured into Europe have removed the threat of bankruptcy and the political danger that would have followed such an economic disaster.

Connally says the OECC's two-year figure is not too far out of line and there is a chance that western Europe will get most of this money.

## AFL Head Says Miners Wouldn't Obey Injunction

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Feb. 8.—(AP)—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, says coal miners probably will disobey any court injunction issued under the Taft-Hartley law to end the mine strike.

Green, one-time aide of John L. Lewis in the United Mine Workers union, told reporters:

"In the event no settlement is reached in the mining controversy and an injunction is issued, I doubt very much that the court action will result in resumption of mining activity."

"I don't want to enlarge on that. But knowing the miners as I do I feel justified in saying it."

Green noted that Lewis paid \$1,410,000 in fines last year for disobeying a similar Taft-Hartley injunction.

Green's comment yesterday came in connection with a new blast by the AFL's executive council at the T-H law. The council said the law has been a failure and the AFL will exert every effort politically in the fall elections to elect a Congress pledged to repeal it.

The council said the T-H law has only snarled labor-management relations and has failed to prevent big strikes.

During its 10-day meeting the council reviewed political plans in its drive to sign up 1,000,000 new union members this year, called for repeal of war-time excise taxes, opposed any strengthening of diplomatic ties with Spain, and charged Russia with seeking to eliminate Jews from behind the Iron Curtain.

Steps to take back the International Association of Machinists, a 600,000-member union which quit the AFL five years ago, also were taken.

## MANSSION DOOMED

CHICAGO.—(AP)—The tide of time is washing away an old Chicago landmark.

The Potter Palmer mansion on Lake Shore Drive, once the citadel of the city's society, will be torn down soon. Two 22-story apartment buildings will be erected on the site.

PHONE 100  
between 6 15 and 7 p. m., if you have not received your News-Review.  
Ask for Harold Mobley

## Soldiers Raise Fund For Widow Of Buddy

KOKURA, Japan, Feb. 8.—(AP)—The men of the 24th reconnaissance company liked Sgt. George Ball. It was a blow to the whole company when he was killed by a train last December.

The men got to thinking about Ball's widow and seven children back there in Oswego, N. Y.

Monday the company turned out for pay call. The first man in line dropped several bills on the desk and said: "That's something for the sergeant." And so it went right on down the line.

And that is why one of these

NO FRAUD IN SLUGS  
GREAT FALLS, Mont.—(AP)—County Attorney R. J. Nelson recently ordered the release of two men held for using slugs in slot machines at a nearby town. He ruled no law covered their case.

Nelson said the statute against obtaining money by trickery came closest, but he decided it was intended to prevent obtaining money by trickery from another person. He said: "I don't believe it would cover a case in which a person obtained money from a machine by trickery."

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## FROM THE NEWS OF 60 YEARS AGO

**The Raging Umpqua**  
Rain and melting snow causes it to overflow its banks in many places.

The recent warm rains rapidly dissolved the mountains and snow which had fallen there usually placid Umpqua during a raging torrent . . . converting the high water into a deluge of the damage by the ton of the woolen mill, which although still held in place by the heavy machinery, is a total wreck.

Roseburg Review  
February 6, 1890

Those headlines of 1890 may well be repeated in 1950 if a sudden thaw should arrive. Sudden acts of nature (and of man) have too many times destroyed property and lives. We can't foresee acts of God but we can prevent serious loss from fire, collision and a multitude of other causes. Your peace of mind may depend on one of our insurance policies.

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