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SCHOOL CHOICE MADE

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Four districts, Melrose, Riversdale, Wilbur and Winchester, voted Friday to consolidate with the Roseburg school district, thus enlarging boundaries and increasing district valuation by \$2,550,000, for a total of \$17,799,841. The four districts uniting with District No. 4, bring a combined debt of \$122,375 and unobligated bonding capacity of \$239,210.71. Roseburg district has a debt amounting to \$814,000 and unused bonding capacity totalling \$1,346,784.00. The consolidation proposal was rejected by narrow margins in Green and Garden Valley districts, and by wide margins at Dillard, Lookingglass, Roberts Creek, Tenmile and Umpqua. The election reflects a strong sentiment in the so-called southern districts for a consolidation of their own, although such proposal was beaten in a previous election. A new plan may be brought up for vote, now that the issue of consolidation with Roseburg has been defeated.

Some shuffling may yet result. Remonstrances may be forthcoming in districts voting union. It also is possible that reconsideration of the consolidation issue will be made in those districts in which the vote was close. Thus it is possible although not probable, that several more elections on this same question may ensue.

Financial Problems Foreseen

It is a debatable question whether the formation of north and south districts from the large area involved will be better for the community in the years to come than consolidation of the whole. Qualified opinion is to be found on both sides.

Immediate need poses problems in both areas. The Roseburg school district board doubtless will serve notice that tuition high school pupils will not be accepted from the districts rejecting consolidation. The Roseburg board, however, has pledged itself to give notice of its intention a year in advance. City School Superintendent Paul Elliott reports it will be necessary to double-shift high school operations next fall and until the time limit for tuition pupils expires.

It will be necessary for the southern districts to erect a high school building and take over operation of a high school. With limited bonding capacity it will be difficult to finance the construction program.

At the same time Roseburg, while gaining a brief respite after eliminating tuition students from the southern districts, must soon enlarge its high school facilities and has only limited bonding capacity with which to finance new buildings, particularly when money also must be spent on elementary school facility expansion.

Problems Stump Experts

The problems with which our school districts are confronted serve only to confuse the average layman. Technicalities involved baffle even the experts in the educational field. The average person is apt to be swayed more by sentiment than by argument, particularly when the argument involves many factors he does not understand.

Douglas county has come a long way from its old provincialism, its jealousies, suspicions and distrust between communities. We find far less friction and a much greater degree of cooperation than ever before. But there remains a reluctance to surrender local control of schools.

In one respect that is a most worthy and commendable spirit, for it indicates our sincere determination to preserve the American tradition which places our schools in the same sacred position as our churches and our homes. This same prejudice, however, may upon occasion be a barrier to the most efficient and economical administration.

Too, we find a natural distrust of "bigness." Any consolidation or annexation proposal which involves one large district or municipality, in comparison with one or more smaller communities, leaves residents of the smaller unit with the impression they are being "swallowed" or "absorbed" rather than integrated. Suspicion and distrust of "bigness" is the psychological factor in any such issue.

Our school problems eventually will resolve themselves. We have enough determination and pride in our schools, that we are ready to sacrifice on their behalf. We will work out our problems in some manner. Time will tell whether the course we have selected is best for all concerned.

Scraps From the MENDING BASKET
by Vidnett Martin P.O. Box 874, Drain, Or.

It may be a little late in the "Worldwide Bible Reading" period to say a word about it, but surely not too late? I do like the idea of everybody beginning on Thanksgiving day to read a series of Bible passages, ending the series on Christmas Day, don't you? I like the togetherness of the project. It doesn't matter which church edifice each attends, and it doesn't matter which time of day or where he reads the day's selection. An one can read missed passages and begin today! It is nice to know that millions of the little booklets have been widely circulated and are being used, and the newspapers have also copied the list of citations, because 14 - million booklets were not enough!



All Right, Let the Music Begin.

Fulton Lewis Jr. WASHINGTON REPORT

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WASHINGTON — The Interstate Commerce Commission is sitting on a powder keg. Sixty trucking concerns around the country are seeking permanent authority to transport high explosives on the nation's highways.

Some trucking firms now have temporary or emergency permits to haul such dangerous cargoes, as a result of the defense buildup and the inability of railroads to transport the load. In seeking permanent rights, the trucking firms are asking for an extension of the routes to be used. Almost every state in the country would be affected if the ICC rules favorably on the applications.

The executive committee of the governor's conference recently protested to the ICC regarding the trucking request. Other official protests have come from the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the American Association of State Highway Officials and various state and local national highway safety committees. Representatives of parent-teacher organizations also are protesting.

If granted the authority, trucks would haul bombs, shells, powder, gas and projectiles loaded with radioactive materials. Technical protests over wholesale trucking of such materials are based on the fact that the combination of dangerous explosives and gasoline will breed catastrophe. Some explosives detonate on impact and most other such material explodes from fire.

Traffic accidents continue to increase and the addition of explosive-laden trucks on the nation's main highways will increase the hazards encountered by drivers. Many cities and other communities cannot be bypassed at present. Many major cities have arterial highways as their main streets. And there is an additional hazard in that many roads are seriously in need of major repairs.

State and municipal governments are concerned over the possible consequences of sabotage, and the effect on critical bridges if an explosive laden truck blew up. Local police departments, to assure safe passage of such vehicles, would have to escort trucks

over both rural and city roads. Police of various points in the country already have notified the ICC that they do not have an adequate force for the job. Under present laws states are the sole owners of their highways, yet the federal government through the ICC has the power to say what will be hauled on the state-owned roads. At the same time, the state governments are responsible for the safety of their highways and their citizens. The ICC accepts no responsibility for disasters resulting from its own orders on what may be hauled on the highways.

Those protesting against the demands of trucking firms do not argue that some explosives have to be hauled on the highways. Railroads do not reach some points, and are loaded to capacity in any event. Thousands of tons of dangerous cargo now are transported by highway, under temporary permits, between military installations and munitions plants. The Defense department has a large scale shell reloading program underway. State and local officials have learned to live with this hazard, but they break out into a bad case of the jitters when they think about a mass granting of permits for hauling shells and bombs all over the country.

These officials want to be notified whenever an explosive-laden truck is headed for the state border; they want the trucks plainly labeled, with strict regulations on time of transport, literacy of drivers and designated routes.

If we have to consider this hazard along with hot rod drivers, drunks and plain fools on the highway, the suggested regulations do not appear to be more than a bare minimum for our safety.

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government I can BELIEVE IN AND TRUST.

I'm a lifelong Republican, but if the Democratic party can throw these money changers out of the temple, if it can clean itself up COMPLETELY and honestly and genuinely so that it can and will give us the kind of government that Thomas Jefferson, the party's founder, would have approved, I'll vote for a Democrat for President for the first time in my life.

That's how strongly I feel about this whole nasty, disillusioning business.

I doubt, of course, if the Democratic party can clean itself up VOLUNTARILY. It has held too much power too long. It has come to think in terms of PRIVILEGE, rather than in terms of duty and responsibility. Too many of its leaders are thinking of themselves and their crowd and what is good for THEM instead of what is good for their country. That, history teaches us, is what practically ALWAYS happens when too much power is held in too few hands too long.

As for the Republican party — If it is to win next year's election, it must divorce itself utterly from thoughts of power and privilege and must think WHOLLY in terms of duty and responsibility.

The Republicans held too much power too long. They lost the confidence of the people. They haven't regained it. They are still under suspicion. There are hundreds of thousands of independent thinkers who would, as of now, LIKE to vote Republican but are afraid to because they are still suspicious of the Republican party.

This suspicion can be overcome only by Republican candidates of such high character that they will COMMAND the confidence and faith of the people and by principles that the people will believe in and be willing to fight for. Whether the Republican party can rise to a challenge like that remains to be seen.

Youths Sip Beer From Keg On Curb

KLAMATH FALLS — With the temperature registering a chilly 10 degrees above zero, prowl car officers had to do a double take late Friday night when they spotted four boys sitting on a curbstone using a length of garden hose to sip from a keg of beer.

That's what they were doing, Police Chief Orville Hamilton said, when police learned the three in jail were identified as Joseph Vern Barkdoll, Kenneth R. Lowry and Sheldon Abercrombie, all 19 years old and residents of Klamath Falls.

Bribe Accepted For Draft Fix

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (AP) — FBI agent A. I. Means said Mark F. Heffernan, 54, chairman of a local draft board, was arrested Friday on charges of accepting a bribe to fix the draft status of a potential inductee.

Means, in charge of the FBI Memphis area office, said Heffernan accepted \$200 from Leslie V. Thompson, the draft registrant's father, in violation of a federal statute.

West Germany Revels In Yule Shopping Spree

BONN, Germany — (AP) — Germans west of the Iron Curtain are enjoying their biggest Christmas shopping spree since pre-war days. The markets are so lush that some West Germans are even sending parcels to Britain—only six Christmas after the war which Britain won and Germany lost.

The British—and the East Germans under Communist rule — struggle with strict food rationing, but there is no limit on what the 48,000,000 West Germans can choose for Christmas dinner.

As a sign of the changing times in Germany, many members of the British occupation forces who plan to spend Christmas at home are taking bundles for Britain with them.

With the country riding the crest of an economic boom, West Germans aren't pinching pennies in their Christmas buying. Pleased merchants report record sales and say free-spending shoppers are more concerned about quality than price.

Most stores have stretched week-day sales hours and are opening Sunday afternoons to accommodate buyers.

Store Have To Bar Doors Sunday shoppers stampeded traffic off the main street in battered Cologne. Some Cologne stores had to bar their doors because sales clerks were unable to deal with the crowds.

The stores are loaded with lavish displays of everything good to eat and drink, and the choice of gifts is about as wide as in Paris or New York.

Shoppers don't have to be content with German goods. There's a wide variety of imports including foreign textiles, French perfumes, American cars and nylon, Swiss chocolates, Dutch cheese, milk coats and precious stones.

Christmas cheer is taxed heavily and a bottle of brandy costs about \$8 worth of German marks. But the best of German and other European wines, French champagne and Russian caviar are available.

For Christmas dinner most Germans prefer goose. It will cost the equivalent of about 70 cents a pound. Or they can have duck for 50 cents a pound, rabbit for 60 chicken or choice filet steak at 70, or venison for 80.

There are plenty of vegetables. And to round out Christmas dinner there are mountains of fruits and nuts.

Retail Prices Of Food Post New High In November

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Retail food prices reached a new high on Nov. 26 after climbing 1.4 percent in the previous 11 days, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

The rise was attributed to higher prices for fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, lamb and eggs.

The bureau said the Nov. 26 prices were 234.5 percent of the 1935-39 total. This was approximately 2.6 percent higher than in the previous month and 15 percent above the level of June 15, 1950, just before the Korean war.

A survey of eight cities showed that fresh fruit and vegetable prices rose 10 percent between Nov. 15 and 26. The bureau said this was more than the usual seasonal increase because all items were higher except oranges.

The increase ranged from tomatoes, up 27 percent, to potatoes, nine percent, and carrots, eight percent.

The report said prices on canned and dried fruits and vegetables generally were somewhat lower. Cheese dropped one percent but all other dairy items advanced, for an overall increase of 0.7 percent.

Meats, poultry and fish averaged 0.4 percent less, due to decreased pork prices, because of seasonal abundance.

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