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CHARLES V. STANTON
Editor

EDWIN L. KNAPP
Manager

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ANNOYING ELECTIONS

Charles V. Stanton

Throughout Douglas County we are facing our annual plague of budget elections. Nearly every municipality, school district or special district must go before voters for approval or rejection of estimated expenditures for the coming fiscal year.

Although the law requires publication of budget figures in advance of elections, few people, we believe, ever take the time to study the budgets carefully. Even if they did make such study, they would have little basic knowledge of actual conditions upon which estimates for funds are based. To properly understand a budget, one would be required to make intimate investigation of every minute phase of the affected operation—a study requiring many weeks of close contact and research.

When we go to the polls to vote on budgets, we are guided more by emotion than by knowledge.

We may feel that our schools or our city governments are costing us too much money, so we reject budget proposals because we dislike high taxes. If required to take a test to determine our actual knowledge as to whether or not our schools or city governments could be efficiently and properly managed on less money, very few of us would receive a passing grade.

New Legislation Needed

The budget system used by all Oregon taxing bodies has many advantages. It needs revision, however, for better efficiency.

Every taxing body must call in a committee of citizens to aid in compiling the fiscal program for the ensuing year. Normally these individuals know very little about the intimate details of the program. The very fact that they are in a position to scan proposals, however, and have a voice in setting up the budget, is a deterrent to excessive and wasteful items. Members of the budget committee, too, usually inquire into unfamiliar expenditures and thus have a limited influence on policy matters.

Another good feature of the law is the requirement for public hearings. Proposed budgets must be advertised. A date must be set when any interested citizens may appear and offer suggestions for changes. This phase of the law has, in practice, often opened the door for restrictive and over-conservative amendments. Taxpayer Leagues take these budget hearings seriously. It occasionally happens that the majority of League members are more interested in lower taxes than in efficient administration. If, however, a group of taxpayers succeeds in imposing damaging restrictions, competition with other groups of more liberal trend usually follows, thus preventing permanent damage.

It is well in these days of inflationary trends to have vigilant sentinels over expenditure of public funds. Proponents of efficient management and ample appropriations to obtain efficiency have equal privilege at budget hearings. If they permit unduly restrictive pressure to prevail, it is their own fault.

Fortunately, the Douglas County Taxpayers League in recent years has been much more liberal in its sentiment than was the case earlier in its history. It has shown a definite trend toward approval of appropriations productive of efficiency and progress, while still watchful and critical of waste. Not all counties are so fortunate.

Tax Limitation Annoying

Most urgently needed is some amendment to the state's tax limitation law to permit establishment of more realistic tax bases in growing political subdivisions.

The City of Roseburg, for instance, with a budget in excess of \$300,000, is still subject to a tax base of \$58,000.

The law permits the budget to be increased each year only 6 percent more, in dollars, than the budget of the previous year. No matter what may be the rate of population growth and increase in tax valuation, a taxing body may only increase its budget by six percent over that of the preceding year, except by vote of the people. And, though the people may authorize a levy outside the six percent limitation each year, the old tax base still stands. So a special election must be called annually. The City of Roseburg's tax base is only a few percentage points higher than in 1940 despite the fact that population has doubled and property valuation has tripled.

If we could get some sort of legislation to permit a tax base to expand in proportion to growth and valuation, we could rid ourselves of these troublesome and expensive annual budget elections.



MENDING BASKET

Vahnett Martin—Roxbury, Drain, Or.

"Hundreds of years ago the ancient Greeks worked out a set of standard measurements," it says here in the May issue of that most attractive magazine, "Popular Ceramics," which Gladys Workman left for me to read, "and these same proportions are used today by painters, sculptors and craftsmen. They are as follows:

"Your body should be seven and one-half to eight times the length of your head. For instance, if the distance from the top of your head to the tip of your chin is eight and one-half inches, you should be from sixty-three and three-fourths inches to sixty-eight inches tall. Your nose should be as long as your forehead, and the distance from the end of your nose to the end of your chin should be exactly a nose-length.

"From the top of your head to your natural waistline you should measure three 'heads.' From your waist to the bend of your knee is also three heads; from the knee to your heel, two heads. Your shoulders should be approxi-

mately as wide or a trifle wider than your hips. The female figure is two heads wide; the average height is about five feet eight inches tall. The average height of the male figure is six feet, and his width is two and one-third heads.

"If your figure is balanced on one foot, the ball of that foot is directly under the chin. A line drawn straight down will indicate where the foot is to be placed." (The measurements for a baby or very young child are quite a different proportion, and if interested, you can find them in Ann Marie's interesting article, "Facts about Figures and Color," beginning on page 8 of the May Popular Ceramics. The author is a member of the St. Louis Museum of Art, and an artist-craftsman, so the above measurements would seem authoritative.

I have often measured lanky figures in magazine illustrations, just for fun, to see how many feet tall the figure would have to be, for somewhere along the years I picked up the rule of height equalling about eight times the

"Something on Your Mind, Mister?"



Fulton Lewis Jr.

WASHINGTON REPORT

(Copyright, 1951, King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

WASHINGTON—Our loquacious ambassador to India, the former super-salesman of soap and deodorants, Chester Bowles, has returned to the United States to report that the Indian Government is learning to love us.

As far as I can find out, nobody asked Bowles to come home, but here he is and we've got to make the best of it. Naturally, a year in India didn't teach him to keep his mouth shut. When he was starving out American housewives while director of the Office of Price Administration, he never drew a silent breath. Now the Indians are getting the same treatment.

Bowles is just like everybody else on President Truman's diplomatic payroll. He is a beggar of international good-will, while shoveling out our cash to keep the somewhat questionable government of India from falling apart. He says there is more "understanding" now on both sides—meaning that the U. S. Government and the Government of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru both are certain that India won't balk any longer at taking our multi-million dollar handouts.

Bowles was sent to India to look after U. S. interests there. He has become a little confused, however; his year there seems to have been spent representing Indian interests rather than the U. S. Government.

The Government of India, since 1945, has flatly refused to ship us any of her plentiful supplies of strategic materials, needed desperately here for both atomic bomb and jet plant production.

In 1951, at the insistence of President Truman and Secretary of State Dean Acheson, India was handed \$200,000,000.

So far in 1952, Bowles has wheedled \$54,000,000 in point four program funds for India. He wants \$250,000,000 more this year and is snooping around for \$15,000,000 worth of mutual security cash as an additional inducement to Nehru to love us.

Most of the stuff India refuses to send us is class one strategic materials on the munitions board list. One item, jute for burlap, is not strategic, but when India refused to ship any to the U. S., the burlap industry almost called it quits. At the time, though Bowles explained that Nehru was really beginning to love us, Nehru was offering the Russians all the jute they could haul home.

American Businessmen have long wanted to give India a short course in how embargoes can be two-way streets. Every time, however, the Secretary of State has talked them out of it. The businessmen I wish to note before the Communists start calling them Fascists, were willing to forego their profits to teach India a lesson. But Acheson said "no." Not once but four times. He didn't want any good, old-fashioned Americanism cluttering up his diplomacy. He didn't think it would be nice. Beryllium and monazite ore—commonly known as "rare earths"—are two of the strategic metals we really need.

Monazite contains thorium and 15 other elements. Thorium can be converted into uranium 233. Some other elements in the ore, of which India has billions of tons, is absolutely essential for jet engine production.

head. Not long ago a fair damsel would have been eleven and a half feet tall. Surely the author of the story hadn't meant her to be THAT "willowy?"

In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

meeting Klamath Falls with Eugene, although, he adds, this is the major arterial Southern Pacific north and south line along the Pacific Coast.

It shows no railroad between Portland and Astoria, and none going to Coos Bay. It shows a major rail line from Seattle to Bend by way of Yakima, although in the language of Artemus Ward "there ain't no such animal."

It shows no main rail line running out from San Francisco to Portland, and by way of indicating no partiality it shows no main line out of San Francisco through Sacramento to the East.

And so on through quite a mess of omission and commission.

Walter concludes his letter with this eminently mild paragraph: "I call these errors to your attention so that the map may be corrected to rectify these mistakes, as, in case of difficulty, I am sure that any rail transportation program based thereon would be virtually useless."

I quite agree. One certainly couldn't base much of a plan for civil defense of the Western states on a map like that. Trains dispatched under it would soon be lost in the woods and would do our people little good in the pinches. I certainly hope the Army's war maps are more accurate.

It would appear that one such instance of grave misunderstanding of our Western country would be enough for one week. Not so, Congressman Norblad, had more got himself squared away to tackle his normal congressional duties when the postman brought him a postcard from a Mr. Jeffrey Rubin, of Dorchester, Massachusetts. The postcard was addressed to the Oregon EMBASSY, Washington, D.C.

That really riled Walter. An embassy, you know, is a headquarters maintained by FOREIGN COUNTRIES in the capitals of other foreign countries.

But he calmed himself and dictated to Mr. Rubin of Massachusetts a letter of which this is the second paragraph: "I wish to assure you that Oregon is one of the great states of the 48 in the United States of America, and as it is not a foreign country it does not, of course, have an embassy in Washington, or anywhere else. While my state of Oregon was not settled as early as your state of Massachusetts, I do wish to advise that we have been a state for almost a hundred years, having been admitted in 1859. My own home town of Astoria was settled about 1811 and there has been a community or city there ever since that time."

I know, Walter. It's annoying. But one has to put up with these things. One of the wisest sayings of all time runs to the general effect that "one of the worst things wrong with us is the fact that so many people know so many things that ain't so." No truer words were ever uttered.

Keep up the good work. Maybe in time we'll be able to dispel some of this fog of ignorance about our Far Western country.

River Trip Of Albany Sea Scouts Crashes

ALBANY, Ore. (AP)—Albany Sea Scouts, whose proposed voyage down the Willamette and Columbia Rivers came to an abrupt end Saturday, were planning another trip Monday.

Their ship, Jolly Roger, a converted lifeboat, hit a pipeline in the Willamette near Dayton. It capsized, throwing the eight Scouts and Skipper Fred McMullen into the water. All made it to shore, but some of their gear was lost. They hope to make the trip later this summer.

Congress Chat

By HARRIS ELLSWORTH,
M. C., 4th Oregon District

As this is written, only some three and one-half working weeks remain before the Congress will recess for the national nominating conventions. Meanwhile, the House of Representatives is more or less marking time waiting for the Senate to act upon the appropriations bills and complete action on some other House-passed legislation.

Earlier this year it was assumed that the major work of this session could and would be completed by convention time. Thus there would be a long summer and fall for campaigning. It seems doubtful now, however, that the money bills will be completed by the Fourth of July. Furthermore, the situation in the steel industry is such that unless the strike is settled and the steel workers have a new contract, members of Congress will only leave Washington long enough to attend the two nominating conventions and then return late in July, so as to be in session if legislation is required to get production going.

Several proposals for new laws to deal with the steel strike and similar troubles which may arise in the future have been presented. I have not yet been able to read them all but their general theme seems to be to set up compulsory arbitration, provide for government seizure of plants, and permit wages to be set by executive order.

The President refused to use the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act because that procedure would not empower him to set wages. Had he been able to make his unconstitutional seizure order stick, his power to fix wages and otherwise control our economy would have been almost without limit.

At first, I believe, organized labor thought the seizure order was a good idea because it was almost certain to give the steel workers what they were asking. Later there has been considerable indication that the more thoughtful labor organization people realize that wage fixing by government means the end of the system of collective bargaining under which labor has made such splendid gains.

Nor can labor possibly gain in the long run if wage fixing is wrapped up in another form and sugar-coated with the label "compulsory arbitration." That term simply means that a very small group of men be given the power, with all of the force of law back of it, to determine wages and working conditions. If that system is substituted for collective bargaining and the right to strike, then organized labor will suffer a shattering set-back.

The "National Emergency" sections of the Taft-Hartley law were carefully thought out and fully debated. They protect the rights of labor to the very final action which is a decision by Congress on the specific case involved, based upon facts and a recommendation by the President. This law should have been used earlier in the steel case. It should be used now.

Most people are inclined to think that a Congressman—a member of the U. S. House of Representatives—is mighty anxious to be reelected and keep the job. That is true, of course, in many cases but it is not by any means the general attitude in this service. This year some 40 members—nearly 10 percent—are not running for reelection to the House.

U.S. Battle Casualties In Korea Near 110,000

WASHINGTON (AP)—Announced U.S. battle casualties in Korea reached 109,712 Wednesday an increase of 553 since last week.

This was the greatest rise reported for any week since last Dec. 12. It reflected the heavier fighting recently. Most of the additional casualties were suffered by the Army and the Marines.

The Defense Department's weekly summary, based on notifications to families through last Friday reported: 64 killed in action, bringing the new total to 18,316; 492 wounded, bringing the new total to 79,918; and three missing for a total of 12,478.

The breakdown for casualties by services: Army, 173 killed for an overall total of 88,832; Navy, 15, for 1,375; Air Force, 13 for 1,187 and Marine Corps 352 for 18,318.

Oregon Traffic Law Violations High In Number

Oregon drivers kept file clerks and typists in the Secretary of State's office more than busy during the first five months of this year.

During that time, the department's drivers license division recorded 17,278 traffic violation convictions on driving records of Oregonians. The figure exceeds that of the same period last year by nearly 2,000, Secretary of State Earl Newbry said.

Keeping tabs on traffic convictions makes it possible for license officials to spot potential highway trouble-makers, Newbry said. If a driver becomes what is known as a "repeater," he can, if he fails to reform, have his license suspended.

May convictions alone, Newbry said, totaled 3,762, a figure surpassed to date only by the 4,721 convictions reported in March.

During May, the department suspended 232 licenses after court convictions of driving while intoxicated, and 20 for reckless driving. Other reasons for suspension last month included: violation of the basic rule, 11; hit and run, 4; failure to yield right of way, 2; and driving record (too many accidents or violations), 5.

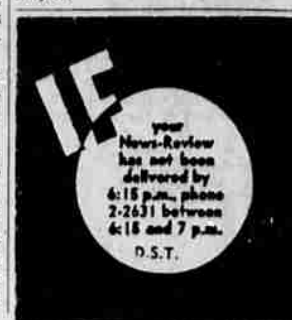
Hired Man Works Less Than His Farmer Boss

WASHINGTON (AP)—The hired man on the farm works about two hours less each day than his farmer boss.

The Agriculture Department, reporting this Wednesday, said hired hands average 9 1/2 hours work a day.

Farm employment continues to decline, the department said, reflecting loss of workers to the armed forces and to urban industries as well as a rise in the use of machinery and labor saving practices.

The department said farm employment totals 10,863,000, a decrease of 150,000 from a year ago. Employment at this time of the year during 1945-49 averaged 12,200,000.



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