

The News-Review

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BUDGET CONFUSION

By Charles V. Stanton

Roseburg's city budget muddle comes to a vote again next Tuesday. Voters this time will have a promise that salaries will be limited to a five per cent increase instead of the 10 to 12 per cent previously proposed.

Personally we doubt that the compromise reached with the Municipal Committee of the Douglas County Taxpayers League will materially affect the negative vote. It may serve, however, to bring out a larger affirmative vote.

A study of elections shows there is a fairly consistent negative vote in any taxing district. Unless some highly controversial issue is involved, that vote remains fairly uniform and consistent. It has been particularly evident in the two city budget elections already held — 218 in the first election, when 339 votes were cast; 250 in the second election when 495 voters went to the polls. We believe the budget would have passed at the first election had as many as 1,000 of the city's approximately 5,000 eligible voters taken the trouble to go to the polls. It is obvious that another 25 to 50 votes would have passed the budget at the second election. The budget possibly will fail again unless 600 or 700 voters, as a minimum, respond.

Salaries Pose Tough Problem

We hear many arguments concerning the city's salary structure. However, it is not an unusual or rare problem, for every industry and business is in the same predicament. Industry and business, however, are able to make adjustments at any time to meet critical situations. A taxing unit, such as a municipality, is bound by its budget, which is inflexible from year to year.

The salary issue is most pronounced in the city police department where the turnover has been critical. It takes years to train a police officer until he is fully competent. But the city police force has been able to retain patrolmen only for a few months.

We cannot expect police department efficiency if we fail to keep men in service long enough to receive the training they need. City officials complain that as soon as a rookie gets a minimum of training and experience, he can make more money by moving to some other locality. Whether the proposed five per cent salary boost will be enough to meet outside wage competition remains to be seen.

The change in salaries from the proposed budget, it is estimated, will lower the amount to be levied in taxes by about \$10,000. With the cut of slightly more than \$9,000 made prior to the second election, the rate of levy will correspond closely to that of the last fiscal year.

May Get New Tax Base

Many voters are confused by the necessity for these special city elections. But, unless the measure referred by the last legislature to establish procedure for a new tax base is passed, we probably will go on holding these special elections in municipalities and school districts forever.

Roseburg's tax base last year was around \$58,000. This could be increased only six per cent, in dollars, or \$3,500, in round figures. Now our tax base is a little more than \$61,000. But it costs more than \$440,000 to operate the municipal government for a year. Some of the cost can be paid from revenue other than direct taxes. But, after all outside income is deducted, from the total budget requirement, the city will still need more than \$100,000 in direct taxes over and above the amount permitted by the six per cent limitation. The city government, therefore, must go to the people for permission to exceed the limitation fixed by law.

In November, the people of the state will vote on a referred measure authorizing municipalities and school districts that have outgrown their old tax bases to establish new bases based on averages of late years. If the amendment passes it will become possible, providing city voters will approve a more realistic tax base, to escape these annual elections.

SCRAPS FROM THE MENDING BASKET

by Vidneet Martin P.O. Box 874, Drain, Or.

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Food Poisoning Source Discovered In Ham

PORTLAND — Food poisoning which Saturday hospitalized 138 persons after a Boilermakers' Union picnic, Wednesday was blamed on improperly refrigerated hams.

Dr. Thomas L. Meador, city health officer, said ham, used in sandwiches, showed in laboratory tests that it contained the poison. All those stricken recovered.

Tomato Juice

Hudson House 46-Oz. Tin 23¢

Salt

MORTON'S Plain or Iodized 26-Oz. Carton 3/25¢

Crustauick

Betty Crocker with 15c canned fruit prem. free 2/19¢

Potato Chips

Nalley's Reg. 39c Pkg. 33¢

Dog Food

Swift's Pard Can 2/27¢

Toilet Tissue

Waldorf Roll 2/15¢

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Black Pepper

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Tuna

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Jam or Jelly

STRAWBERRY Mary Ellen's, by case, 12 12-oz. jars \$3.59

Flour

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Nalley's Reg. 39c Pkg. 33¢

Dog Food

Swift's Pard Can 2/27¢

Toilet Tissue

Waldorf Roll 2/15¢

Black Pepper

Schilling's 2-Oz. Can 33¢

Tuna

Van Camp's Grated No. 1/2 Tin 23¢

Jam or Jelly

STRAWBERRY Mary Ellen's, by case, 12 12-oz. jars \$3.59

Flour

Sperry's Drifted Snow 5-Lb. Bag 47¢

SCRAPS FROM THE MENDING BASKET

by Vidneet Martin P.O. Box 874, Drain, Or.

Did you hear of a yarn ball the kind that holds surprises? I heard of the idea long ago as a way to make a small girl do her stint in knitting, but B.M. writes of one being made for an absentee by her fellow-workers:

"We cut out cartoons, funny sayings, and interesting articles, and wound them in a large ball, so that as our house-bound friend unwound the ball she would find a new joke or item each time. Some of the girls even tucked in small gifts to surprise her. The only trouble was that her many friends were so fascinated they kept unwinding the ball to see what was next in it, so she finally had to hide it so she could unwind it herself."

Speaking of unwinding: The stunt used for a sailor who wished he could have a long letter, a really LONG letter that would last and last, might also be used for a shut-in friend, either a child, teen-ager or adult. The wisest adding machine paper was used for the stationery, and everybody in the neighborhood delightedly added something to it, telling even the most trivial news, and especially anything funny. The "letter" was a knock-out success and was "read" by everybody else, especially the fellows who never get any mail." (Our neighbor hurried it along to the next and it was all done in one day. Yards of it!)

One busy day when a letter to a relative seemed obligatory and time was lacking, I used the ordin-

Tomato Juice

Hudson House 46-Oz. Tin 23¢

Salt

MORTON'S Plain or Iodized 26-Oz. Carton 3/25¢

Crustauick

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Potato Chips

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