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Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

Recession Not Depression

LaGrande Evening Observer

The official government price in-
dex has just hit an all-time high.
But some of the other business in-
dicators are down, and this has the
worriers practicing their trade
with vigor.

Residential housing starts are
dropping off. Department store
sales aren't keeping pace with
1952 at this time. Steel production,
long at its virtual ceiling around
100 per cent of theoretical capacity,
has slipped to the 90's. The
stock market, a somewhat dis-
credited barometer, is down. And,
of course, farm income has been
fading for two years.

No denying these pointers. But
it is fair to question how many
of the figures are grounds for real
pessimism. Admittedly, there is
fundamental maladjustment in the
farm situation. But the voicing of
such speedy general alarms seems
to suggest that to some people any
change from peak levels is auto-
matically a "recession."

In the dictionary sense, it is.
But in the economic sense one
may venture some doubt.
Any economy operated by hu-
man beings is bound to have ups
and downs. There are periods of
abnormal demand, like the war
days and the interval when we
were beefing up a stricken Europe.
But these cannot last for ever,
nor can we expect that one kind
of abnormality will inevitably fol-
low another.

In other words, it is reasonable
and normal to anticipate occasion-

al downward adjustments from
peaks of unusual demand, even in
an economy that fundamentally is
growing in pace with a growing
country.

Nothing would appear more fool-
ish than to see the specter of de-
pression in every sag from a high
mark in business. This amounts
to proposing that, no matter how
extreme the boom, economic
health lies only in pressing it con-
stantly onward and upward. The
slightest falling off is viewed as a
sign of imminent calamity.

Let's say that in some particular
field, business was up this spring
about 10 per cent over the same
period in 1952. That's fine. But
the chances are the people involv-
ed in that business thought they
were in pretty good shape the year
before, too. So, if things slack off
to the 1952 level, does that spell
recession? Nobody thought of it
that way in 1952.

It seems a weird sort of psycho-
logy that insists we're headed for
the rocks unless the black lines
on the business charts are pushing
through the roof.

This country is big and still
growing; it may add 60 million
people in the next 22 years. They
must be fed, clothed, housed and
served. There is tremendous work
to be done just keeping up with
the population without considering
great economic improvement. So
why cry "panic" every time the
black line wobbles and slides down-
hill a bit? We have plenty to be
calm about.

Hal Boyle

HOMETOWN, U.S.A. (P) — Every married woman today
is interested in who is divorcing whom and why—particu-
larly why.

Trillie Mae Peeble, America's average housewife, had no
intention of ever divorcing her husband, Wilbur, but she
did like to let him know she had plenty of reasons if she
wanted to.

By avidly reading the newspaper
cases she had assembled a list
score of 67 different situations in
which a wife had won a divorce
from her husband for doing some-
thing Wilbur, too had been guilty
of, at one time or another.

Wilbur thought this was grue-
some of her, and would have pre-
ferred the follow some more pleas-
ant hobby, such as studying poisons
or collecting used murder weap-
ons.

"Oh, good! good, now I'm up
to 68," chuckled Trillie Mae, rip-
ping an item out of the paper.
"It says here a guy in Detroit got
a divorce because her husband made
her take intelligence tests and
called her stupid if she didn't
make a grade of 98. You called
me stupid once."

"Look," said Wilbur. "You ad-
mit I was talking in my sleep,
when I said it, don't you? You
can't blame me for what I say
when I'm unconscious, can you?"
"That's the only time you do
anything except grunt."

"Well, anyway I never made
you take any intelligence tests,"
remarked Wilbur, then a gleam
came into his eyes as he added
craftily:

"Not that you'd have any trouble
hating 100 per cent in any old
test I could dream up, honey."

"Do you really think so?" asked
Trillie Mae, flattered.

"Sure thing. Look how easy you
guess all the answers on those TV
giveaway shows."

"Let's try it — just for fun,"
said his wife, falling into the trap.
"Give me five questions. But don't
make them too hard."

"Okay, ready?"
"What state has the largest popu-
lation?"

"That's easy, Texas."
"Wrong. It's New York. Whose
picture is on a 20 bill?"

"You haven't brought one home
in years. How would I know? It
must be a Republican, President
McQuinley? No, Teddy Roosevelt!"

"Wrong. It's Andrew Jackson, a
Democrat. He got on by mistake.
How do you spell etiquette?"

"E-t-i-q-u-e-t-e," said Trillie
Mae. "And I know what it is,
which is more than some husbands
I could name do."

"Wrong again. Now, can you
identify Beria?"

"Of course, silly. It's one of
those cute little hats Frenchmen
wear."

"Wrong. He's an ex - Russian
leader now missing. Last ques-
tion. You can't miss this one. Who
said, 'Give me liberty or give me
death'?"

"Henry Patrick! Henry Patrick!"
yelled Trillie Mae.
"Well, his friends called him 'Pat-
rick Henry,'" said Wilbur. "Hot
I'll give you half on that one—I
think your score — 10 out of 100."

"You cheated!" cried Trillie
Mae. "Ask me all that junk
as if anybody really cared. You
didn't ask me a single important
question."

"Okay," said Wilbur coolly. "Go
ahead and ask me five questions
more important than. Think hard
now!"
"I don't have to think. Ready?"
"Ready!"
"When is my mother's birthday?"

Reader Opinions

Mistaken Identity Is Corrected By Reader

Because of several recent errors
of mistaken identity printed in
this paper and radio announce-
ments, Mrs. Alta V. Arthur wishes
it to be known that her husband
was Raymond R. Arthur, now of
Salt Lake City, Utah. Raymond F.
Arthur Jr. is their son.
Signed: Alta V. Arthur
Roseburg.

Greece Grants U. S. Permit To Use Bases

WASHINGTON (P) — Greece
gave the United States permission
Monday to use an undisclosed num-
ber of Greek air and naval bases
to bolster North Atlantic Pact de-
fenses.

A formal agreement, specifying
the terms under which the facil-
ities will be used, was signed Mon-
day in Athens by American Am-
bassador C. Wendell Cannon and
Greek officials, the State Depart-
ment announced.

The agreement did not specify
the location and number of Greek
air and naval bases which can be
used by American forces.

The right to use them will last
as long as the Atlantic Pact
is in effect—until 1969.

ADDS DUTIES
COLOMBO, Ceylon (P) — Ceylon's
new prime minister Sir John Ko-
lawela held on to his old post as
transport minister and took over
the defense and foreign ministries
in the new cabinet he named Tues-
day.

Sir John succeeds Douglas
Senanayake, who resigned as
prime minister Monday because
of ill health.

Well, Well—See Who's Here Already!



Legion, Medical Assn. Clash Over Care Of "Non-Eligible" Vets In Federal Hospitals

By DOUGLAS LARSEN

WASHINGTON (NEA) — Should Uncle Sam give free
hospital service to veterans for ailments which had nothing
to do with their military service?

That question has now developed into a major issue be-
tween the American Medical Association and the big vet-
eran's organizations. It's sure to be dumped in the lap of
Congress during the next session.

Unfortunately, for public under-
standing of the issue, it's very
complex, and it lends itself to
emotional arguments on both
sides.

The whole problem, which has
been getting hotter for the past
three years, broke into flame a
few weeks ago when the AMA
flatly announced that its No. 1 fed-
eral legislative goal for the com-
ing year was getting the law
changed to end treatment of vet-
erans with nonservice-connected
ills.

AMA President Dr. Edward J.
McCormick states his stand:

"There are persons who would
make of war veterans a class of
citizens apart from the rest of the
nation. The campaign to perpetu-
ate free medical care in govern-

ment hospitals for veterans with
nonservice-connected disabilities is
a prime example of this misguid-
ed thinking."

U. S. Duty, Veterans Argue
A spokesman from the Ameri-
can Legion says this in defense of
giving vets hospital care regard-
less of service connection:

"The law provides for this care
of veterans and we don't think it
should be changed. When a vet-
eran is broke, sick and has no
place to go, we think it's Uncle
Sam's duty to a man who has
served his country to provide him
medical care under the present
provisions of the federal statutes."

The latest set of figures is the
VA bed population for the day of
Jan. 31, 1953. VA makes a spot
check on one day, assuming that
it gives a typical picture, here
are no yearly figures which pro-
duce a comparable breakdown.

On that day, VA reveals, there
were 49,490 service-connected cas-
es in the hospitals and 54,512 non-
service-connected cases. Both
AMA and the Legion agree that
those figures are approximately
correct. But from there on the
statistics get thicker and the de-
bate more complicated.

The Legion claims that the AMA
is really only interested in about
10,000 of the nonservice-connected
cases. That number includes pa-
tients who will stay less than 90
days and who possibly could have
paid a private doctor and hospi-
tal for that treatment. The VA
does not confirm the 10,000 figure.

Eviction Advocated
The rest of the nonservice-con-
nected cases, the Legion contends,
are veterans suffering chronic ill-
nesses, TB or some psychiatric
trouble. They're mostly hopeless
cases who have no money and
would have to be supported by
the taxpayers in one way or an-
other. As customers, they
wouldn't be worth a dime to pri-
vate doctors or hospitals.

AMA's position on the chronic,
TB and psychiatric cases is that
as soon as possible veterans suf-
fering such disorders should be
thrown out of Uncle Sam's VA hos-
pitals and be forced into local
hospitals and institutions. VA fa-
cilities would then be limited
strictly to veterans suffering dis-
orders resulting from their ser-
vice.

The question of how much mon-
ey is involved is another cloudy
area of debate. Dr. McCormick
says, "VA spent more than \$500
million last year on medical care,
of which amount only \$178,000,000
went for the care of service-
connected disabilities."

Hot Rodders Request Track From Governor

OLYMPIA (P) — Spokesmen for
25 Western Washington hot rod
clubs Friday appeared before Gov-
ernor Langlie's annual Safety Con-
ference and pleaded for race
tracks for hot rodgers so they can
"get speed out of their system."

"You can't tell younger per-
sons to drive slow," said Shelly
Grossman, 22-year-old Seattle ca-
rage operator and president of the
Western Washington Timing Assn.,
"so give them a place to race and
get speed out of their system."

Records in cities which have pro-
vided hot rodgers with places to
race, Grossman said, show defi-
nite decreases in traffic violations
among the younger drivers.

In addition to their plea to the
Safety Conference, the hot rod-
ders displayed six of their prize
cars, including one which the own-
er said had been timed from a
dead stop to 113 miles per hour in
440 yards.

Mexican Justice Aids In Slaying Official Of U. S.

PUEBLA, Mexico (P) — Puebla's
governor said Monday a justice of
the peace has confessed that he
was one of the holdup gang which
murdered an American Point Four
official nine days ago.

Gov. Rafael Avila Camacho said
the justice, Manuel Sanchez Ra-
mirez, admitted taking part in the
shotgun slaying of Dr. Ralph B.
Swain of Benton, Ill., on the Pan
American Highway in Puebla State
Oct. 3.

Swain was cut down before the
eyes of his wife and two children,
while returning to his post in Ni-
caragua from a Mexican vacation.

The governor said the peace of-
ficial had pretended to aid in the
search for the gang up until the
time of his arrest on Saturday. He
added that the official claimed he
took part in the holdup under the
threat of death from Homobone
Olavarria Soriano the gang leader,
who police say has confessed that
he did the actual shooting.

Aurelio Motezuma Soriano, a
cousin of the leader, is also under
arrest. The fourth member of the
gang is known to the authorities
but has not been apprehended.

The three have been formally
charged with conspiratorial murder,
attempted robbery and armed as-
sault on the highway.

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