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ELECTION PARADE

Charles V. Stanton

Again we approach the election season. Virtually every school district, municipality and special taxing district in Douglas County will be holding a special budget election within the next few weeks. In some cases voters may reject proposed budgets. This will necessitate more elections. Because of the frequency with which they are called to the polls, some voters will ignore their responsibility, leaving the way open for organized minority factions to gain control.

Fortunately, this may be the last year for so many special elections. The existing situation comes about through the operation of Oregon's six per cent limitation statute which prevents an increase in the total budget in excess of six per cent, in dollars, without authority from the voters.

Our growth in Western Oregon has been so rapid that an annual six per cent increase in total amount of the budget is insufficient to meet demands imposed by growth. Consequently it becomes necessary each year to go to the voters for approval.

Most of our districts have surpassed their original tax bases, and are still growing faster than six per cent in tax demand, that even with a static condition it would take many years to eliminate levies outside the six per cent limitation.

New Tax Base Possible

Fortunately, it will be possible this year for the majority of districts to set up a new base for tax purposes. The last legislature created machinery whereby a district, with the approval of voters, may establish a more realistic tax base, which then will be subject to the six per cent limitation in the future.

Even with this new provision, however, we probably will not eliminate special budget elections entirely.

Some districts, particularly those in rapidly expanding areas, will not be able to set a new base commensurate with their rate of growth and will not be able to keep within a six per cent limitation in the future. Districts in more static areas will find the law a satisfactory means of relief.

Indications are that Douglas County's boom is far from over; that our population increase, which has continued at almost steady rate throughout late years, will be maintained for several years to come. With the school census showing annual gains as high as 14 per cent it will be difficult to keep school budgets within six per cent.

Urgent Problems For Voters

Special budget elections now being advertised, with more to come, pose urgent problems for voters.

The Roseburg school budget, for instance, is enormous. It represents, if passed in present form, another boost in school taxes. The budget has been carefully prepared by the district board aided by qualified budget committee members. The budget committee contends that the amount requested is the bare minimum necessary for efficient operation of our school system. Voters must decide whether they are willing to pay more taxes for efficient schools or are willing to sacrifice efficiency for a lower tax levy. The same issue is posed by the Roseburg city budget as well as in budgets of other school districts and municipalities throughout the county.

Tricks as these special elections are, voters should carefully study budget proposals. They should weigh the importance of efficient schools and adequate municipal government against taxpaying ability; the desirability of continued growth against the inevitable cost. Decisions at these elections should be based on informed and responsible opinions rather than emotion or prejudice.

We realize it is no fun to parade to election after election. But we live in a nation where the people have the right to govern themselves. Representative government starts at the lowest possible level, that of the district or precinct. If we fail to obtain representative government at the low level, we may find government at the top level ceasing to become representative. Therefore, our election parade, tiresome as it may become, is essential to the conduct of good government and should have the participation of every good citizen.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — If you see any babies today, don't hesitate to smile at them; pat them on their little backs, and tell them what a great job they're doing for the country.

For this is National Baby Week, a proper time to honor the new hero of the American economy.

The baby always has been a big heartthrob in the home, but he hardly was regarded as a big figure in industry.

He is today. The kid in diapers is a kingpin of our national prosperity. It is everybody's business to be nice to babies, because babies are nice for practically everybody's business.

The financial giants no longer forecast the future now merely by keeping tabs on the stockmarket ticker. They also check the baby statistics, and the statistics make pleasant reading.

Catering to babies is now a five million dollar a year business. In 1953 some 3,900,000 babies arrived here, 70,000 more than the year before, and the production lines are still going full blast. No wonder that, even in as small a country as Holland, it is against the law to shoot storks.

Typical of the businessmen who have benefited from the nation's rising infant crop is Jack Turk, who manufactures baby garments. Before the baby boom started, Turk had 12 employees and made only blankets. Now he has 300 employees in three factories that turn out 75 specialized products for babies.

"Babies come into the world bare of any inventory," said Turk contentedly. "They need a lot of things right away."

"As a matter of fact, babies are customers even before they are born. The average parents now

spend \$50 for a layette in advance of birth."

A survey Turk made of 10,000 infant wear outlets showed some new trends in the market, such as:

Because parents now buy more baby clothes in advance, the old tradition of "pink for the girl and blue for the boy" no longer holds true. The favorite colors now are mint, maize and white.

Some 60 per cent of all baby goods are bought as gifts. Less than five per cent of men shop for baby items.

Grandma has a lot to say about what is bought for the first baby, but when the second baby arrives the parents are on their own.

The trend now is to make items for babies that are safer, more comfortable, and more colorful," Turk said. "We are finding that color is an important factor in satisfying the psychological and emotional needs of the infant."

This has resulted in such innovations as plastic nursing bottles that won't shatter, folding carriages that take up less space, and disposable diapers, Turk himself has pioneered with acetate fiber (intercol) garments for babies allergic to wool, and a blanket with sliding rings that can be at-



Congress Chat

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

This session of Congress is now past the half-way point so a sort of summing up would seem to be in order. As a matter of fact, I have just finished reading some copies of "Washington Letter" services which businessmen subscribe to, and some newspaper columnists which purport to give such a summary. If I believed them, which I do not, I suppose being a Member of Congress I should blush a deep red. Those reporters indicate that Congress has just been sitting here for more than three months and has done little or nothing. But since I am a Member and since I think I know more about what this session has done and is doing than they do, I think I am able to report on this subject with considerable more accuracy than are these highly paid "correspondents."

The general complaint is that this session has been slow in taking up and enacting the recommendations of the President. In his "State of the Union" message, the President gave a general outline of what he planned to propose in detail later. Some weeks later his detailed proposals were received. Committees have been working on them. A few have been passed. Meanwhile the House has met the situation in which it found itself by reversing its usual procedure. This year as the result of splendid effort on the part of the Appropriations Committee, we have already passed all of the major appropriations bills except the one for the Defense Department which will be on the floor next week. Ordinarily several of these bills drag on until near the end of a session. With the money bills taken care of the House can now bring to the floor the legislation pertaining to the President's program which, in the meantime, the legislative committees have been perfecting.

However, in addition to handling the appropriations bills, the House has thus far passed tax bills making reductions to taxpayers of more than seven billions of dollars; a housing bill aimed at helping people build low-cost homes; a billion dollars in Federal support for highway building; more hospitals and better public health facilities; sound measures to strengthen our internal security — and some others.

Pending and nearing final action are: Cooperative building with Canada of the St. Lawrence Seaway on a self-liquidating basis; equitable revision of the Taft-Hartley Act; sound legislation for agriculture; statehood for Hawaii and Alaska; expanded social security for millions who are not now covered by the law; and other items listed by the President.

Several bills which I have introduced in the House are making progress through the legislative mill. Following is a brief progress report on each one:

H. R. 5318 — to settle an inter-departmental dispute relative to the jurisdiction over certain O & C lands. Favorable reports received from departments. Public hearings have been held. An executive hearing will be held on

tached to crib slats to prevent babies from smothering.

A business recession "I can't see one in sight in our field," Turk said, "not the way people are getting married, and having larger families."

Turk and other men in the field are highly annoyed, however, over what happens when babies get a little older and start picking out their own clothing. They all seem to want to go around in dungarees and polo shirts.

"We are launching a big campaign to get them to dress up more," he said, and added severely, "why, it is getting hard to tell little girls and boys apart. This dangerous habit has become a terrible threat to the proper development of their personalities."

What it is doing to the personalities of children's wear manufacturers is even worse. Ulcers in technicians.

Peter Edson

WASHINGTON (NEA) — The general impression has been given that there has been a great deal of corruption in Federal Housing Administration.

But when all the congressional investigations and headline hoopla are finally reduced to their essentials, it will be found that the cause for the scandal was careless law-making.

It will be found that everything done by the housing money lenders, the bigger builders, the smaller home modernizers and FHA officials was perfectly within the law.

But it will also be found that a number of sharp operators, high-pressure salesmen, racketeers and worse were able to take advantage of loopholes in the law for some highly unethical gouging of the public to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars.

If the Senate Banking Committee under Homer Capehart of Indiana, or the Senate Expenditures Committee under Harry Byrd of Virginia want to do a real job of investigating these practices, they might dig back to find why Congress wrote the law so loosely.

ONE PLACE to begin on this would be to review the 1950 lobbying investigation hearings and reports of the House special committee headed by the late Rep. Frank Buchanan (D., Pa.). The Buchanan committee paid special attention to the so-called real estate lobby. It was revealed as powerful and well organized.

Some elements of the mortgage banking and building industries fought all government housing legislation. The argument was that private enterprise could do the job better. The significant thing is that when housing legislation was passed, it was usually shaped to give the industry big profits and all the guarantees, at the ultimate expense of the housing purchaser or tenant and the taxpayers.

These are the fundamental causes of the present FHA mess. The now-dead section 608 was written in 1942 so that big builders could make millions out of windfall profits by mortgaging out their operations. When this loophole was discovered, section 608 was repealed in 1950.

TITLE 1 of the FHA Act, under which home repair and modernization loans were authorized, was written in 1934 to give all the breaks to the remodeling contractor and the lending institution. They joined these government-insured loans for this work.

Why not? The loans could be discounted at the banks for 5 percent cash in advance on the full amount. This was the equivalent of over 9 percent on the money.

this bill by the committee on May 10th.

H. R. 8364 — to provide for the construction of the Talent Division of the Rogue River project and rehabilitation irrigation districts. Bureau of Reclamation favorable reports awaiting comments by state governors and interested government agencies.

H. R. 4926 — to provide for a system of timber access roads. Has had a favorable report by the Department of Agriculture Forest Service. Now being considered by Bureau of Budget.

H. R. 7815 — to authorize power at the Cougar flood control dam on McKenzie and permit contract with Eugene Water Board to build and operate power generating facilities. Favorable reports have been received and hearings held by the committee.

H. R. 8661 — to authorize the inclusion of power in the Green Peter flood control dam on South Santiam with authority to contract with local interests for construction and operation of power generating facilities. Department reports have not been received by the committee. Hearings and action by committee may be anticipated within a few weeks.

It's Off to Work We Go

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

rise and find ahead of you a stretch of downhill road with patches of ice on the pavement and a bridge over a deep gully at the bottom.

Experience tells you, he said, that if you slam on your brakes you'll skid out of control. At the best, you'll go in the ditch at the side and at the worst you'll smash into the bridge at the bottom. So you use your head and apply the lessons of experience. Instead of slamming on your brakes with all your might, you touch them just enough to check your speed and then take your foot off. Then you apply them gently again in time, following this skillful practice, you reach the bottom safely.

That, he asserted, has been the theory of the present administration in its approach to the serious problem of balancing the budget without upsetting the economy of the nation and perhaps bringing on a serious depression.

In setting forth his side of the case, Representative McCormack was warm in his praise of President Eisenhower, painting him as a great leader and a great American.

The burden of his argument was that the Republican party is a hopelessly divided army, with half of its troops facing one way and the other half facing determinedly in the opposite direction. The Democrats, he said, can be DEPENDENT ON TO GIVE PRESIDENT EISENHOWER FAR BETTER SUPPORT IN THE CARRYING OUT OF HIS OBJECTIVES THAN THE REPUBLICANS.

The present spectacular McCarthy hearings are the all-absorbing topic of conversation in Washington. Wherever you go, they dominate the talk you hear. But the general feeling, I think, is that their effect on the outcome of the election next fall will be more or less negligible. The Democrats are depending FAR MORE on the farm situation to give them control of the congress than on the issues raised by Senator McCarthy.

There is rather general confidence on their part that the farmers in the big wheat, corn and cotton states aren't going to like the Benson program of flexible farm supports and are going to vote back in a lot of Democrats in the belief that they will maintain the system of rigid HIGH price supports. Therein lies their chief hope of winning back control of the congress.

Home repair and home building are two of the most steady influences in the present recession economy. Both may now drop. FHA inspectors in every local office in the country will now be inclined to reduce the value of loans they guarantee.

Public confidence in all government housing has been shaken.

Ike Nominates Old Classmate

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Eisenhower Wednesday nominated a West Point classmate, retired Lt. Gen. Joseph M. Swing of San Francisco, to be commissioner of immigration and naturalization.

Upon Senate confirmation Swing succeeds Arlyle R. Mackey, who steps down from commissioner to deputy.

Along with the nomination the White House announced Mackey's resignation from the top post, effective when Swing qualifies to take over.

At the same time Atty. Gen. Brownell, under whom the immigration and naturalization service operates, announced that he had asked Mackey to stay on as deputy and Mackey had agreed.

In response to questions, the White House said Mackey's resignation was submitted at the time Eisenhower took office in January, 1953. There was no explanation as to why the President decided to accept it at this time.

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NOTICE---

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Civil Bend Cemetery Association

Stella M. Bohme, Sec.

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