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MORE MONEY TO COUNTIES

Charles V. Stanton

Included in recommended changes for management of Oregon and California grant lands is a provision that 25 per cent of revenue be utilized in construction of access roads. Announcing new policies, Interior Secretary Douglas McKay says that the diversion of this money has the approval of the Association of Land Grant Counties.

Actually, the access roads will be built with county money, for the 25 per cent being diverted would otherwise be paid into county treasuries.

The Oregon and California grant lands originally were given by the federal government to the Oregon and California Railroad Co. to assist in financing the cost of railroad construction between Portland and San Francisco. Provisions of the grant, conveying alternate sections of land within 30 miles on each side of the right of way, were that the railroad company must sell the land to settlers for \$2.50 per acre. When the company held some of the lands for much higher prices, and refused in some cases to sell at any price, the federal government took back the lands by court action.

The grant specified that the sales were to be made to settlers for the purpose of developing the area. Thus the administrative policy since reversion has followed the theory that area development, and protection of local economies, should be continued under federal supervision.

Money Paid Counties

Inasmuch as the railroad company had paid taxes to counties on the grant lands, the affected counties claimed they were entitled to similar payments from the federal government. Congress agreed the counties had a legitimate claim and provided that payments should be made in lieu of taxes, based on the proportionate valuation of the grant lands to all other lands as existing in 1915.

The federal government also paid the railroad company approximately eight million dollars, representing \$2.50 per acre for all reversioned lands. At the same time payments to counties totaled more than income. Thus a considerable debt accumulated.

Upon recommendation from President Franklin Roosevelt, Congress changed the policy on O & C lands. Counties were no longer to have a guaranteed payment in lieu of taxes. Instead, they were to receive 75 per cent of revenue. But, until the debt was paid, they were to get only 50 per cent, while 25 per cent was reserved for administration and 25 per cent used for debt retirement.

Shortly after passage of this act came the upsurge in the timber industry. O & C timber began bringing high prices. Even the 50 per cent of revenue paid counties much more than they had received previously. Recently the existing indebtedness was paid off and counties became eligible for 75 per cent returns.

Access To Timber Needed

Then a new problem arose. Much of the O & C face timber had been exhausted. To maintain sustained yield cutting capacity it became necessary to open additional areas. This meant access roads. Congress balked at appropriations for access roads while counties were receiving such large sums of money. There was threat of another change in the law—perhaps a revision to the policy of payment in lieu of taxes.

The affected counties agreed to assume a part of the burden of access road construction. Last year the access road program took about 15 per cent of revenue, which came out of the money which otherwise would have gone to counties. But, as a result of road extensions, coupled with high prices for stumpage, O & C current revenues being distributed to the 18 counties of western Oregon amounted to \$9,000,379.92, as compared with \$6,584,542.58, the preceding fiscal year. Douglas County will receive \$2,195,048.45 from 1954-55 fiscal year receipts.

Thus, even though the counties have agreed to a diversion of their extra 25 per cent of receipts, there is every indication that the expenditure of those moneys will increase returns from their 50 per cent share because, through access road construction, it will become possible to market more timber.

The counties are sacrificing nothing. Rather, they are making a sound business investment.

Hal Boyle

By BRUCE HENDERSON for HAL BOYLE
BUENOS AIRES (AP)—A battle royal for men's minds is going on in Argentina. The outcome could decide whether this nation builds democracy from the ruins of shattered Peronism or reverts to dictatorship.

A press campaign is trying to persuade the working man still fanatically dedicated to Juan Peron that he can get along even better without the fallen president—and be free besides. It is being conducted by the provisional government set up after rebels ousted Peron last month.

It's an important propaganda job and a tough one. Without at least the passive cooperation of these peoples, achieving stability will be difficult. Peron has a 10-year head start in drilling into their minds the idea he was the only one capable of leading them to the better life.

Argentina's General Confederation of Labor (CGT) claims six million of the country's 19 million citizens. The CGT was Peron's big fist.

In 1945 a day-long strike and demonstration by the CGT forced a military clique which had arrested Peron to free him. That show of mass support hoisted Peron into the presidency the following year.

Liberty Or Domination

How many of the CGT's claimed six million are still avid followers of the exiled Peron is questionable, but surely the figure is high. Unless taught something other than "Peronismo," they could be a constant threat to tranquility.

The government of Maj. Gen. Eduardo Lonardi is trying to show

the Peronistas the difference between labor unions free to chart their own course and those dominated by a government. It is also trying to get across the meaning of "hard money." Newspapers under temporary direction of the provisional authorities carry editorials on these subjects almost daily.

Typical were two editorials on the same page of "La Epoca" one day last week.

One, aimed at CGT-affiliated unions which will elect new officers soon under government supervision, said:

"An effective union democracy is the task of the hour."

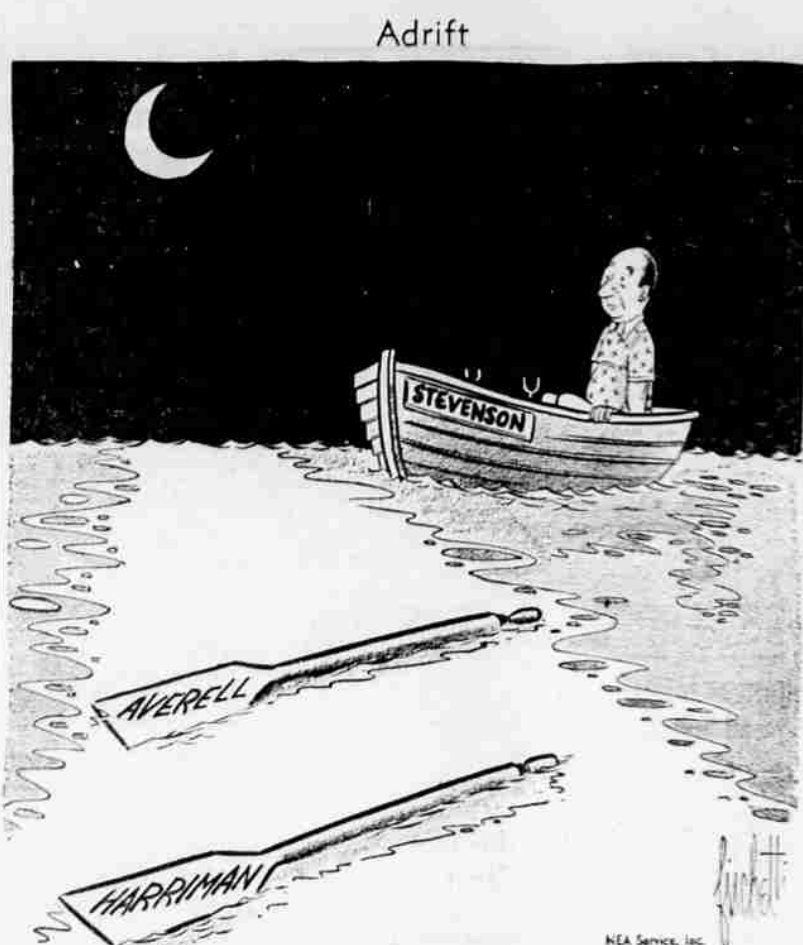
Paper Money Vanishes

The second editorial, entitled "Salary and Money," carried forward the contention of Peron's opponents that salary raises he gave the workers were quickly gobbled up by inflation.

"The people work, and for their work receive a salary in pesos made of paper," it said. "Pesos have value because they represent the nation's wealth and spend."

When their money is gone, instead of reducing the spending, they print pesos, which is easier. Paper costs little and is printed rapidly. What happens then?

If more pesos are printed but no more wealth is developed, each



Bruce Bioassat

Secretary of the Navy Thomas took the wise course when he reversed a special review board and granted a Naval Reserve commission to Eugene W. Landy. He previously had been denied it because of Landy's mother's past Communist activities.

The nation had been shocked months ago when it learned that Landy, who was graduated second in his class this summer at the Merchant Marine Academy, and won three special awards and two scholarships, had been penalized for things his mother did when he was a child.

The theory behind the earlier refusal, is of course, quite simple. Landy's own loyalty was never in question. He was nevertheless judged a security risk because it was assumed his mother's record might make him subject to dangerous pressures.

This theory is applied in numerous cases where there are questionable past or present associations involving one or more members of the family of prospective armed forces or federal civilian personnel.

No blanket rule can be laid down. Each case must be considered individually. But the record of the last few years shows a regrettable tendency among government security officials to resolve doubts against individuals undergoing investigation.

In matters of this kind, facts are not a sufficient guide. The intangible elements of character and personality enter, and can easily be governing.

The special review board and the others who studied Landy's case were operating by shallow

formula. They failed to give proper weight to his character and make-up.

He was a model of conservatism in outlook and was clearly made of stern stuff. He had persuaded his mother to drop her Communist doings. It was highly unlikely that a young man with his performance record and personal traits would yield to blackmailers' pressures and give away military secrets.

Prodigious by public reaction, Secretary Thomas has now corrected the error. But his reasoning in so doing was not impressive.

He said his evaluation was the "common-sense" approach, but praised the special review board which obviously did not employ it. His "tribute" to the board is nothing more than feeble Navy face-saving.

Thomas said, too, with the air of a man making a discovery, that he felt Landy's association with his mother was the natural one of mother and son, not a sympathetic political tie. But this should have been as obvious to the various security reviewers as it was to Thomas.

The final result in the Landy case was good. But the means by which it was attained do not inspire confidence in the judgment of the Navy's security officers. Thomas retrieved their kumblie.

Indian Officials Estimate Flood Deaths At 1,200

NEW DELHI, India (AP)—Officials in India's two northern states estimated flood deaths at 1,200 persons.

Reports reaching New Delhi from Punjab and Patiala quoted Punjab transportation minister Jagal Narain as saying at least 1,000 persons died in his state. A Patiala spokesman estimated there were 200 deaths there. Narain also was reported as saying damage to crops, homes and industry would reach almost 210 million dollars.

As officials gave the latest figures—nearly tripling the previous estimated death toll—fresh rains and winds in the northern states as well as stricken Delhi stirred new fears.

A combination of wind and rain Thursday deprived most of this capital city of almost two million of its water supply. Officials said a power failure caused a breakdown in the waterworks' pumps. Power failure also disrupted the government radio.

India's minister of irrigation and power estimated crop losses in Punjab and Pepsu states at more than 63 million dollars. About 75,000 houses have been destroyed in 7,000 villages and about 9,000 square miles of farmland inundated. Thousands of refugees have crowded into makeshift shelters here.

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

Spending a little less every week than you earn.

In this modern age—which in SO MANY ways is a wonderful age—there is a lot of talk about SECURITY.

How can one be secure? The best way is to put a little aside every week—as the people of Oregon have evidently been doing this year.

Speaking of saving brings up another question. What shall one do with it after one has saved it?

The answer? INVEST IT.

How? There are many good ways to invest savings.

There are government bonds. They are GOOD because the United States of America is good. There are savings banks. There is insurance. There are the securities of our great corporations. The demogogues try to make us believe that our great corporations are owned by a few fat cats who spend their time thinking up new ways to gyp the people.

That isn't true. Our great corporations are owned by MILLIONS OF PEOPLE. Anyone who saves up a little money—even as little as \$100—can become a part owner of our great corporate enterprises.

The big thing is to SAVE A LITTLE every week.

If you can't do any better with it after you have saved it, put it in the sugar bowl in the kitchen closet. Or bury it out in the back yard (that isn't good, for somebody will see you, sooner or later, and will dig it up some dark night when you aren't looking.) But it's better than not saving it at all.

The big point (if you want security) is to SAVE something out of every pay check.

HELPING POLIO HAND

NEW CANAAN, Conn. (AP)—Jack Peach, 35, and his neighbor Mrs. Arden Murphy are polio victims who need help from iron lungs. When the floods here caused a power failure, Peach invited Mrs. Murphy, who wears a portable iron lung, to share a generator he keeps in his cellar for just such an emergency.

Son Of Stalin Shot To Death

FRIEDLAND, Germany (AP)—Stalin's son Jacob was shot to death in a Nazi concentration camp in 1945 after he flung himself on an electrified barbed-wire fence, a returning German war prisoner says.

The story was brought back by Maj. Walter Reuschle, prewar director of radio Stuttgart. He said he interviewed Stalin's son also known as Jacob Djughashvili, in 1941 after the latter was captured on the Eastern front.

He said he got the details from the commandant of Oranienburg concentration camp near Berlin, where Jacob was a prisoner of war.

"Stalin's son suddenly made a dash for the high-voltage fence and flung himself on it," Reuschle said he was told.

SAILOR KILLED

ASTORIA (AP)—Charles Francis Acord, 27, a Navy sailor from Eau Claire, Wis., was killed here Monday morning when his car collided head-on with another, then crashed through a guard rail.

He was headed for duty at the Tongue Point Naval Station nearby when the accident happened. The driver of the other automobile, Wayne E. Finck, Astoria, was hospitalized with cuts and other injuries.



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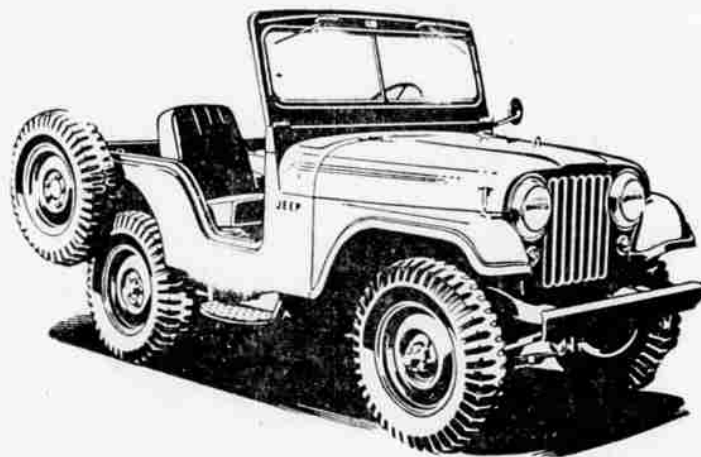
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