

The News-Review

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PUBLIC POWER COSTS

Charles V. Stanton

H. C. "Doc" Wells, district manager for the California Oregon Power Company, handed the Douglas County tax collector this week a check in the sum of \$634,085, representing Copco's county tax payment for the year. Copco's total tax was \$653,689.95, less the three per cent allowed for early payment. The company's tax before discount last year was \$591,168, so Copco, like all other taxpayers, had an increase in taxes this year.

Taxes levied in Douglas County for the year total \$5,601,524.01. Thus Copco's tax amounts to almost 12 per cent of the total. If Copco paid no taxes, every Douglas County taxpayer would be required to pay between 11 and 12 per cent more than the amount which already is causing much groaning and wailing.

But county taxes are only a drop in the bucket compared to Copco's total tax bill.

For the year 1954, Copco paid \$2,195,529.32 in federal and state income taxes, \$1,728,018.70 in property taxes, \$154,004.12 for franchises, charters and licenses, and \$56,287.89 for social security taxes. This adds up to a total of \$4,124,840.03.

Money For Schools

Of the more than \$5-million levied in taxes in Douglas County for the current year, almost 80 per cent goes to schools. Thus Copco is paying around a half million dollars to support the schools of the county.

Public power advocates want our hydroelectric power developed by the federal government. Federal projects pay no taxes. So, if our power here in Douglas County came from federal operations, every taxpayer's bill would be almost 12 per cent higher.

Power advocates, of course, contend that low-cost power is the great benefit from federal development.

Copco's actual revenue in 1954 when divided by its kilowatt hour production gives a return of 1.34 cents per KWH. Less taxes, the revenue would be 1.015 cents per KWH. The difference is .325 cents, or approximately one-third. So, Copco could sell its power at almost one-third less cost if it didn't pay taxes.

If Copco could operate on the same basis as federal projects, power consumers could buy power for approximately one-third less, while paying nearly 12 per cent more in taxes. On that basis how "low" is low-cost power?

Our public power advocates weep and wail about the plight of our schools. They would rob states of their resources to provide "Oil for the Lamps of Learning." At the same time they would deprive schools of a source of income from private power utilities.

Tax Federal Units

Propagandists for federal power monopoly are endeavoring to sell the people a piece of "phony" goods. They rave against partnership projects because utilities would, according to their claims, profit from fast tax write-offs. Then they advocate completely tax free public power projects.

They make it appear that public power is a profitable business, yet the Western Area Development Council recently was told that had public projects paid taxes, as do private utilities, deficits would have been as follows: Tennessee Valley Authority, \$99,547,167; Bonneville, \$96,626,893; Boulder Canyon, \$101,186,839; Parker-Davis, \$21,200,338; Southwestern Power, \$10,692,305. Those amounts, then, are being subsidized by private taxpayers throughout the country.

Why shouldn't public power projects pay taxes the same as private utilities?

The federal government gives states and counties 25 per cent of revenue from national forests, in addition to helping finance federal highways in and abutting those forests. It pays 75 per cent of revenue on Oregon and California grant lands. States and counties share in revenues from grazing lands. Public housing projects pay in lieu of taxes to local governments. Many federally reserved lands yield the equivalent of local taxes.

Why, then, should federal power projects not pay from 30 to 35 per cent of their revenue to local governments, the same as is done by private utilities and as is done by other departments of federal government?

What would become of the argument for public power if equitable tax payments were to be made a part of the operation?

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — A fable:

An old man in a small boat by the fringe of a river bending to the sea was patiently netting minnows.

Time had made him a philosopher of sky and land and water.

A boy rowed up to him and said, "Teach me to catch whales."

"Why?" asked the philosopher.

"My father, Angelo, is a tuna fisherman," explained the boy. "But I don't wish to fish for the tuna. I want to catch the whale."

"I know your father, and I understand why he doesn't search for the whale," replied the philosopher. "But why did he send you to me?"

"I don't know," said the boy. "He only told me that if I couldn't be happy with tuna and must seek the whale I should go and take lessons perhaps from the minnow men. Can you help me?"

The boy's face was ecstatic. "I know your father, the tuna fisherman, and I also know why he has never caught the whale," said the philosopher. "His checks float away, and I know why he sent you to me. But I will try to teach you."

The philosopher taught the boy how small fish run in schools and how to net them. Then he taught him how fish get scarier and tougher as they go to college, and how it takes an equal endurance

and fortitude to watch them. And then he told him the patience and strength and skill it takes to wait for a whale and then to stalk and harpoon a whale.

Then he said as he sent him forth:

"You have learned all I can teach you about what must be done. Nothing is left for you to do."

The boy, now grown to young manhood, left him. He sought and found the blowing whale.

Years later, in middle age, stumbling on one leg, the boy came back to the philosopher, and said in his boat and said half-remorsefully:

"I'm tired of hunting whales. You never searched for whales yourself, did you? Why not?"

And the old man answered placidly: "No. The nature of the minnow taught me all I needed to know. But some people have to learn the whale. Each man must learn what his own nature requires

Avalanche



Reader Opinions

Undeveloped Acreage Situation Discussed

GREEN — The "Reader Opinion" article concerning the Green Sanitation District, appearing in the November 14th issue of The News-Review, presents correct cost estimates in accordance with information given out by the engineering firm working with the district, with the exception of that portion concerning assessment of charges on large lots and undeveloped acreage. It is our belief that such areas as this would be assessed on the same front footage and 150 foot depth basis as all other areas in the district, if a sewer line runs along it.

However, in the engineering planning preparatory to setting up a bond issue for construction of the sanitary system every effort would be made to eliminate line extensions into sparsely populated areas. Such areas would, when sufficiently built up, finance construction of necessary lines to serve them by formation of local improvement districts within the Green Sanitary District.

In an effort to further clarify questions regarding improvement assessments on properties, the board is endeavoring to secure a representative of the engineering firm for a special open meeting for Thursday, November 17th at 8:00 P.M. at the Green School auditorium.

Green Sanitation District
Board of Directors
Allan Petersdorf
Warren Engdahl
Richard Terrell

Sanitary District Cost Declared Exaggerated

GREEN — I have been approached by several people of the Green community who are trying to dissolve the Green Sanitary District. Not one person has denied that the community as a whole needs a sanitation system. Each opponent declares, however, that he as an individual does not need the sewer.

It is surprising to me that any person would be willing to dissolve a system which admittedly is needed by so many as a health measure.

The opposition has exaggerated the cost of the project. It will be an expense to all of us, just as is our water system and our school. But, in my opinion, our health is even more important than either of these.

Neighbor, think this over and decide whether you can afford not to vote this sanitary district in.

C. B. KEENEY
Green, Ore.

Ben-Gurion Rejects Eden's Dispute Proposal

JERUSALEM, Israel (AP) — Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion declared Tuesday night Israel rejects British Prime Minister Eden's proposal for territorial concessions to solve the Negro-Sinai frontier dispute.

In a speech approved by Cabinet as formal government statement of policy, Ben-Gurion told Knesset (Parliament) his Prime Minister Eden's proposal to truncate the territory of Israel for the benefit of its neighbors has no legal, moral or logical basis, and cannot be considered.

Ben-Gurion said the only way he can find it out.

The other fisherman watched and wondered as the old, old philosopher and his former scolar resumed the netting of minnows, rapping the stream with echoes of minnow laughter at times as they discussed the ambitions of whales and mankind. But they never went for tuna.

Moral: There's a whale of a difference in what people fish for in this world.

Judge Upholds Committee Right To Probe Authors

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge Tuesday upheld the right of Congress to inquire into the political beliefs of authors whose books appear in U. S. libraries overseas.

U.S. District Judge Joseph C. McGarraghy made the ruling in denying a motion by author Harvey O'Connor for acquittal on a contempt of Congress indictment.

While denying O'Connor's motion, the judge did not rule specifically on the writer's guilt or innocence. This ruling will come later.

McGarraghy turned down all legal points raised by O'Connor's attorneys. One was that a question as to whether O'Connor was a member of the Communist Party at the time he wrote books used in the State Department's overseas libraries invaded O'Connor's rights under the First Amendment.

O'Connor, 38, of Winnetka, Ill., and Little Compton, R. I., appeared before the Senate Investigations subcommittee, then headed by Sen. McCarthy (R-Wis), in July 1953.

O'Connor, in refusing to say whether he was a Communist when the books were placed in the overseas libraries, contended his writings and political opinions were no legitimate concern of the subcommittee. He is the author of "Mellon's Million," "The Astors" and other books.

McCarthy testified at the trial that O'Connor was "a well known Communist and said he had been a paid Communist propagandist."

Judge McGarraghy said in his memorandum-opinion the subcommittee "has the power to consider more than budgeting and fiscal matters of government operations."

The judge said that in examining the overseas information program the subcommittee had the right to question O'Connor as to Communist ties.

Other well placed sources, declining to be quoted by name, said the inquiry involves the Interstate Commerce Commission and that its chairman, Hugh W. Cross, will be questioned although probably not Tuesday.

Cross was not available immediately for comment.

Meanwhile Sen. McCarthy (R-Wis), the subcommittee's senior Republican member, announced he will recommend that it turn over to the House Committee on Un-American Activities for investigation the evidence on which he based an allegation that the National Labor Relations Board is "literally honeycombed" with Communists and associates of suspected Reds.

Pacific Supply Co-op. Business \$23 Million

PORTLAND (AP) — Delegates to the Pacific Supply cooperative convention meeting here through Wednesday were told that business volume of the association this year reached \$23,374,000.

Charles Baker, general manager, reported Monday that there were cash refunds of \$217,000 to members this year on previous business and in addition, \$325,000 in petroleum profits were passed on to local cooperatives to help them meet competitive situations.

Baker predicted 1 1/2 million dollars in sales of liquid fertilizer next year. He told of plans for installation of liquid fertilizer plants and distribution facilities in Eastern Oregon and Washington and Northern Idaho.

Karl Baur, manager of the chemicals division, predicted a 32 per cent nitrogen spray solution will be used by a great number of local farmers for wheat and other crops in the future.

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

summer waxes and winter waxes, we forget all the good and bad. Life is like that.

Over the weekend two prominent Americans — Robert Sherwood, playwright, and Bernard De Voto, novelist and historian — are victims of heart attacks.

Both were useful citizens. We can ill spare them. Both were THINKERS. Sherwood was 59. DeVoto was 58. If spared, both could have gone on thinking for a long, long time.

A San Francisco woman was savagely beaten this morning in a quarrel with her landlord, who wanted to fix a broken window in her apartment in the early morning hours when she wanted to sleep.

Fixing broken windows—especially here at the beginning of winter—is a good thing. Sleep is a good thing. If the two of them could have GOT TOGETHER, THE WORLD WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF ALL AROUND.

So MUCH evil results because people can't get together in the common cause of human betterment.

In New Orleans, a 62-year-old machinist is fatally shot by three juveniles whom he surprised while they were ransacking his house. That is doubly bad. The world can ill afford to lose a good honest machinist in these days when our lives are so dominated by machines.

There is no greater tragedy than JUVENILES GONE WRONG.

Worst of all is the case of the student who has just been arrested and charged with responsibility for the crash of the airliner north of Denver a couple of weeks ago following a bomb-like blast in a baggage compartment.

The young man's mother was aboard the plane. He had just taken out \$37,500 worth of insurance on her life. He is one of the heirs of her estate, whose value is estimated at \$150,000. He had been in trouble before, and always his mother had helped him out.

The whole affair gives one the shivers.

Is the world getting steadily worse?

It sounds like it. I know—but I still think our modern communications are so super-perfect that we hear everything that happens almost as soon as it happens. In the olden golden days, it was different. We then heard little beyond our own immediate neighborhood.

Hood River Man Victim Of Icy Highway Accident

THE DALLES (AP) — Alva L. Day, 68, Hood River, died in a hospital here Tuesday of injuries suffered on an icy highway, 20 miles east of The Dalles Saturday night.

He was in a pickup truck that skidded and collided with an ambulance en route from The Dalles to another accident.

Day had been active in wildlife conservation work for years. He was with the Pacific Power and Light Co. 41 years until his retirement in 1953.

Ray Calmettes, ex-city councilman at Hood River, was injured critically in the wreck. Hospital attendants Tuesday reported he was in good condition.

SHERIFF CRITICAL
HILLSBORO (AP) — Richard H. Busch, 37, sheriff of Washington County, was in critical condition in a hospital here Tuesday from a heart attack, suffered at his home Sunday night.

Bruce Biossat

The whole country has a stake in the cleaning up of the dockworkers' union, the International Longshoremen's Association, in New York City. For this has long represented a strong beachhead of the criminal element in the nation's labor movement.

The New York — New Jersey waterfront commission created by the two state legislatures in 1953 constituted the first major effort to combat the evil.

The law setting up the commission required that all dockworkers and ship company representatives register with the agency to get work. It has the power to deny licenses to criminals. Clearly, it has wide control over hiring, previously a monopoly of the union itself.

Up to now the commission has failed to smash the I.L.A.'s hold on the rank and file of dockworkers. But a couple of months ago, with the backing of Governors Meyer and Harriman, the commission successfully rode out an I.L.A. strike aimed at its operations.

THE I.L.A. has felt the pinch enough to keep up a steady hammering at the commission, accusing it of arbitrary and harsh administration.

With this combat still in progress, Harriman demanded resignation of New York's commission representative, Lt. Gen. George Hays. He said he wanted a "commissioner of my own choosing" and a lawyer rather than a "military man."

Harriman is said to have felt the commission was adopting a "military" approach to waterfront affairs that was actually hindering a cleanup. He desires a softer policy to convince the union rank and file it should throw out its corrupt leadership. Carmine DeSapio, Tammany leader who is friendly with some I.L.A. leaders, is said to support this position.

But Harriman's attitude has met opposition from both commissioners. And now that he has replaced Hays, Governor Meyer has made it plain he does not share Harriman's liking for the soft approach.

INDEED, MEYNER has openly criticized Hays' ouster as possibly damaging to the Commission's prestige at this critical stage in its fight. He does not want to see anything happen that smacks of appeasement of the I.L.A.'s criminal element.

Since Meyer himself is a Democrat, these criticisms cannot be so easily dismissed as Harriman sought to dismiss Republican complaints.

The fact seems to be that Harriman acted in disregard of the commission's delicately balanced prestige. But in the end he may not succeed anyway in winning the commission over to a softer approach.

Before Hays resigned formally, he and his New Jersey counterpart named two key staff officers wedded to a sterner approach. Their replacement by others satisfactory to Harriman now appears most unlikely.

Most observers view Harriman's action as untimely if not unwise, and doubt that it has enhanced his own stature as a firm-dealing executive.

Mr. Lundgren, a native of Canada, was elected President, October 13, succeeding Foster Newberry, who retired.

As Investment Analyst, Vice President for Investments and a Director, he assisted in making the Society the world's financially strongest in the investment field. He served as National Secretary the past year.

President Lundgren, ardent fraternalist, has held all local Woodmen Camp offices, is a past master of the Fraternal Investment Association, and a member of the National Fraternal Congress executive committee.

Mr. Sims, a native of Texas, joined the Society in 1923, its field force in 1932. He was later District Manager at Houston and State Manager of Illinois. He returned to Texas as State Manager in 1938.

Because of his excellent ability in enrolling members and promoting fraternal activities, he was promoted to Texas as State Manager in 1948. He has directed many national campaigns, adding thousands of members.

"Dick" Sims was named Vice President in 1951, a Director in 1953, and a National Auditor in 1954.

Under the able direction of these new officers and its directors, the Woodmen of the World looks forward to continued growth in fraternal protection and service.

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TRADE AGREEMENT

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Poland announced Tuesday a trade agreement with Yugoslavia which appeared part of a new Russian play to induce Marshal Tito back into the Soviet economic sphere.

Radi Warsaw said Poland and Yugoslavia had signed a protocol in Warsaw that, during 1956, will increase trade between the two countries 100 per cent over 1955.

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