

The News-Review

Entered as second class matter May 7, 1926, at the post office at Roseburg, Oregon, under act of March 3, 1879.

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Member of the Associated Press, Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, the Audit Bureau of Circulations

Represented by WEST-HOLLIDAY CO., INC., offices in New York, Chicago, Published Daily Except Sunday by the

News-Review Company, Inc.

San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland, Denver
Subscription Rates—In Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$12.00; six months, \$6.50; three months, \$3.50. Outside Oregon—By Mail—Per Year, \$15.00; six months, \$8.00; three months, \$4.50.
By News-Review Carrier—Per Year, \$12.00 (in advance), less than one year, per month, \$1.25.

NEWS FREEDOM

Charles V. Stanton

The city administration at North Bend is to be commended for lifting its newsgathering restrictions against the Coos Bay Times.

Angered by attacks upon city officials by the publisher of the newspaper in Coos Bay, the city government at North Bend recently closed public records to Times reporters except upon written request, specifying the item on which information was desired, accompanied by a declaration of purposes for which access to the record was requested.

The publisher of The Times had engaged in a lengthy tirade against officials of the neighboring city of North Bend, starting with a demand for consolidation and then alleging corruption on the part of the city administration. When regularly constituted authorities, demanding something more tangible than allegations, failed to inaugurate full-scale investigations, the publisher sent lengthy telegrams to prominent people throughout the United States asking advice on procedure. Demands for investigation were made upon the Governor and Attorney General, both of whom expressed confidence in the ability of local authorities.

It was charged in North Bend that petty crimes, and particularly common drunk cases, were reported in an exaggerated manner to make it appear that North Bend was being governed as a wide-open, lawless city.

News Barrier Erected

It is understandable that North Bend city officials would be resentful. Either innocent or guilty of the charges alleged, they would want revenge. They chose to erect barriers to the dissemination of news on the part of the Coos Bay paper. This action aroused widespread criticism and was brought to the attention of the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, which promised an investigation.

Apparently, however, the North Bend officials have recognized their error and have rescinded the order voluntarily, and for that are to be commended.

Even though they may feel they have just cause for provocation — an issue I would not attempt to judge — interference with the collection and dissemination of news is not a proper field in which to seek revenge.

The public has the right to know every detail of government at every level — from the City Hall to the White House.

The average citizen has no opportunity to ascertain all details of government. Although he has the right of access to public records and has the right of inquiry into every branch of government, he seldom has the time to make inquiry and, without guidance, would be lost in trying to find information.

He buys a newspaper with the expectation that he will be kept informed on any matters of interest. The collective nickels paid by subscribers provide funds, together with advertising revenue, whereby newspapers may hire reporters and editors trained and experienced in collection and dissemination of news. Thus the reporter, though privately employed, is, in fact, the accredited representative of the public and is not to be denied any privilege rightfully belonging to the public.

Cooperation in Roseburg

And, while we're on this subject, this is a good time to express belated appreciation to the Roseburg city administration for its cooperation in the news field.

Following the election of Ernest Barker to the office of Mayor, he and City Manager George Farrell visited the editorial office of The News-Review and conferred with newspaper representatives on news policies.

The city officials invited representatives of the press to attend every meeting of the council and all committee sessions. No closed sessions have been held. News reporters have had complete cooperation from every city department.

There are times in governmental deliberations when some information must be held in confidence. The public's interest could be damaged by premature disclosure of such things as right-of-way locations, proposed property purchases, or various policy matters while in process of formation. The News-Review has cooperated with city officials in such matters but at all times has reserved the right to decide whether confidence is essential and is to be observed.

Although there have been times when Roseburg city officials might disagree with newspaper decisions, the administration has been most tolerant and cooperative.

It is a policy to be recommended to every governmental body.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — Could Marilyn Monroe walk into the average American business office and land a job as a secretary?

No, siree, mister, she couldn't — not if you take the word of the nation's businessmen themselves and I, for one, am not sure that I do.

A survey of leading executives on what they look for in a secretary, made by Carl Ray, research vice president of the Underwood Corp., placed personal charm way down on the list of desirable attributes. As a matter of fact, it ranged seventh.

"Forty-six per cent of the bosses indicated they wanted initiative more than anything else in a secretary," Ray said.

Why don't they place a higher premium on glamour in hiring a lady typewriter jockey?

Ray conceded the executives were ruled partly by their fears — fear of what their wife would say, fear that a too-pretty secretary would distract the other office hired hands, but added:

"On a more positive basis, however, it's worth noting that secretaries today have to be executive assistants rather than just a plain old-fashioned secretary. What bosses really want is somebody who

can mind the store while they're gone.

The sampling showed opinion was divided on the question of whether single or married women make the best secretaries.

"Twenty-four per cent of the bosses stated a preference for single girls, 20 per cent preferred married secretaries, and the rest expressed no choice," Ray said.

After initiative, the employers rated secretarial virtues in this order: The ability to type quickly and accurately, the ability to file and find information speedily, a winning telephone manner, punctuality and personal neatness.

Many older secretaries have complained it is difficult for them to land a new job after 40, and almost impossible after 50. The poll showed considerable justification for their complaint.

None of the businessmen came out for bobby-soxers as secretaries. But 48 per cent said they preferred

Okay! Who's Going to Shove Whom?



Peter Edson

Govt. Defrauded On Hat Contracts, Senators Report

By G. MILTON KELLY

WASHINGTON (NEA) — One business barometer getting a lot of attention these days is the growth of consumer credit.

Federal Reserve Board has just reported that consumer installment debt now totals 27.3 billion dollars. This is an increase of 5 billion dollars over a year ago.

Short-term consumer debts of nearly 7.7 billion dollars additionally bring the total to around 35 billion.

That's obviously a lot of money, but rather meaningless to the average family head, concerned with balancing his own budget for the coming year. Reducing the figures to average family size makes them easier to understand.

There are now approximately 49.5 million families in the U.S. plus another 3 million unattached adults. This makes a total of 52.5 million "spending units."

Past surveys by Federal Reserve show that about half of these spending units have no debts. No long-term mortgage on the house. No intermediate installment debt. No short-term charge accounts or service bills to pay.

SO TO MAKE an estimate on average indebtedness it's necessary to divide total consumer credit of 35 billion dollars in round numbers, by the 26 million plus spending units who do owe money.

The answer comes to approximately \$1330 per unit.

This is made up of, on the average, \$542 owed on an automobile, \$288 owed on furniture or house-

hold appliances, \$62 owed on repair or modernization loans, \$204 owed on personal loans.

On noninstallment debts, the average breakdown is \$103 on single payment loans due, \$123 owed on charge accounts and \$68 on service credit for doctor bills and the like.

Automobile loans are responsible for most of last year's increase. Seventy-two per cent of the new cars were sold on credit in the third quarter of 1955. The average note on purchase was for \$2200. Both figures are new highs.

THIS AVERAGE indebtedness of \$1330 for the spending units that are in debt must of course be related to average family income.

With total disposable income after taxes calculated at 275 billion dollars at the end of the year, the average income for 52.5 million spending units would be about \$5,240.

An installment and short-term debt of \$1330 for such a family would be a little over 25 per cent of income. That is considered a high ratio for sound family finances.

The above figures of course do not include home owners' mortgage indebtedness. It has been rising at the rate of a billion dollars a month. It's another cause of worry for economists who fear that too much easy credit may lead to more inflation.

Best estimates of Housing and Home Finance Agency experts put the total owner-occupied housing mortgage debt at about 80 billion dollars as of Jan. 1.

OF THE 42 MILLION U.S. housing units, approximately one third are rented. Another third are owner-occupied and fully paid for. The final third, or 14 million units, are mortgaged.

This would make the average unpaid balance due on mortgages for families buying their own homes on time \$5700. In relation to average family disposable income of over \$5200 a year, the average mortgage is 10 per cent greater.

Families buying their own homes on time, are necessarily the same families with the larger installment and short-term debts. The two figures can't be added to get a representative total average family indebtedness.

HOOPER RENEWS Advice For Special Veep To Ease Presidential Workload

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Hoover has renewed his proposal for an administrative vice president in the face of a lukewarm White House reception and outright opposition from Harry S. Truman.

The 81-year-old Hoover testified he was certain "these dissents are based upon misapprehensions" of the proposal. He added he would certainly welcome any other effective methods "to reduce the presidential workload."

Hoover appeared before Senate Government Operations subcommittee as it started a search for ways of lightening presidential burdens as the aftermath of President Eisenhower's heart attack last Sept. 24.

In opening his testimony, Hoover said:

"The nation's experience with the seven most recent presidents should constitute a call to action. Four of them have been incapacitated in critical periods."

At another point, Hoover told the subcommittee:

"We are going to have to relieve the presidents some if we are going to keep them alive."

to hire a secretary "somewhere between 20 and 40 years old." Another 27 per cent stipulated she had to be between the ages of 30 and 40.

The magic age for a secretary today therefore would seem to be 20.

What are the pet peeves of executives against their "favorite girl Friday?"

The chief sins of secretaries, the poll showed, are these: Some take too many coffee breaks, place too many personal phone calls at the office, take part in office gossip, or simply indulge in too much plain old feminine yakety yak.

But the biggest trouble with secretaries was voiced by an unhappy Los Angeles businessman, who said:

"None of the executives, of course, took a lie detector test or a truth serum. Therefore, I rather doubt if Marilyn Monroe showed up in any of their offices looking for a job, she would be turned away empty-handed."

The tired businessman isn't that tired.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Investigations subcommittee said this week Harry Lev, a millionaire Chicago hat manufacturer, used "bribery, collusion and connivance with government contracting officials" to profit from government contracts.

Lev denied he had bribed anyone when he appeared last June before the subcommittee, headed by Sen. McClellan (D-Ark.).

In a report to the Senate, the subcommittee said its 17 days of public hearings disclosed "fraud, bribery and perjury" by Lev and others who helped him to make pay-offs.

Among them it named pretty Mrs. Mella Hort of Westfield, N.J., a former administrator of military uniform contracts who, the report said, received money and gifts from Lev, then "attempted to blackmail" him.

The report said the subcommittee believed the testimony of Leon M. Levy, a retired Brooklyn, N.Y., hat manufacturer, who testified he had put up money to pay bribes, and who accused Lev and others of doing so.

The investigation dealt with practices of the Armed Services Textile and Apparel Procurement Agency (ASTAPA) which since Oct. 1, 1952, to Oct. 31, 1953, handled the buying of textiles for all the armed forces.

McClellan told the Senate "evidence presented" showed bribery "to obtain contractual favors and to pass defective material on inspection."

The inquiry, the report said, showed the government is entitled to refunds of \$454,035.30 from Lev and his companies and \$47,440 from other firms. "It is believed," the report said, "that a thorough study of all government contracts since 1950 would result in claims by the government of millions of dollars."

It suggested the defense department establish a "special squad of qualified accountants and investigators" to make such a study.

At particular issue in the investigation was a two million dollar contract Lev's Mid City Uniform Co. received in 1954 to produce 861,000 white sailor caps for the Navy.

"From its inception to its conclusion (the contract) was handled in an atmosphere of fraud, collusion and chicanery," the report said.

Over the years, it said, Lev has made "millions" on government contracts by deviations from specifications.

Recommending vigorous prosecution of criminal charges and claims for refunds, the subcommittee said all government agencies should be more alert in policing contracts.

Guilty Plea Is Entered To Tapping TV Cable

CLARKSTON, Wash. (AP) — Monroe Franklin pleaded guilty to "TV antenna tapping" Monday and was fined \$100 with \$75 suspended.

Franklin was accused of bringing out a ladder after dark, climbing up a pole near his home and connecting his set to the community antenna system without paying the fee.

Pacific Northwest Television Inc., which provides the antenna for viewers in the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley, contended Franklin's clamp punched holes in the cable and disrupted the signal to customers down the line. He was specifically charged with malicious injury to property.

PLANS FOR CENTENNIAL

MONMOUTH (AP) — This Williamette Valley community is making plans for a centennial celebration to be staged May 3.

The town was founded 100 years ago and named after Monmouth, Ill., by pioneers from that area who settled here.

Monmouth, Ill., is believed to be named for Monmouth, N.J., which was named for Monmouth in Great Britain.

Republicans Proud, Demos Critical Of Ike's Budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans in Congress greeted President Eisenhower's budget this week with a general pointing of pride toward the end of red ink bookkeeping. Democrats gazed at the proposed increase on 1 1/2 billion dollars in spending.

Many legislators were disappointed that the President's figures left little or no room for tax cutting.

On the Democratic side, there were some too who questioned whether the President was not over optimistic in anticipating that good times would produce 1 1/2 billion dollars more revenue from present taxes.

Along this line, Senate Democratic leader Johnson (Tex.) said that "only time will tell whether this budget is realistic and reflects all of the facts. The accuracy of the revenue figures will make considerable difference to the American people, and that cannot be determined for quite some time."

Johnson also commented: "It is interesting that this budget is nearly eight billion dollars above the goal the President, as a candidate in 1952, set for this year. This is a demonstration of the fact that promises are frequently easier than achievement."

"Congress will now have to get down to the hard work of determining whether the budget fills our needs."

Other Views Expressed

Sen. Saltonstall of Massachusetts, acting Senate GOP leader, said that if Congress follows the President's recommendations, "it looks as though on July 1 the Republicans will be able to say that they have carried out their campaign promises to balance the budget."

Sen. George (D-Ga.) a veteran member of the Senate Finance Committee, who has urged tax reduction, said that the budget was "discouraging" in the amount of spending it proposes. He declined to speculate whether its figures leave room for future tax cuts.

House Republican leader Martin (Mass.), saying the balanced budget was the first in almost a decade, called it "a major achievement for President Eisenhower, the administration, and our tax-paying public."

"We can all be proud of the accomplishment," Martin said. "We can also take equal pride in the fact that the president is hopeful that the budget for fiscal 1956 will be in balance as will the fiscal 1957 budget which his message dealt with Monday."

Revolt, Return Of Peron Seen By Ex-Dictator

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Herald Tribune Tuesday published a prediction by former Argentine President Juan D. Peron that he will return home this year on the crest of a revolt that may claim a million Argentine lives.

Herald Tribune writer Joseph Newman, who interviewed Peron at his current exile retreat in Panama, wrote that Argentina's former boss is convinced he will recover his rule by the end of 1956.

Newman said the former dictator appears to be consumed by a desire to regain power and wreak vengeance on his foes.

"Seventy per cent of the adult population has voted for me in the last election are still with me," Peron said. "My agents are everywhere, and they are preparing for the day. It may come any time. There will be a violent uprising. Blood will flow in the streets of Argentina."

Refunds Claimed Due

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Ridgway To Be Invited To Tell Views On Defense

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House Appropriations subcommittee chairman said Tuesday he will invite Gen. Matthew Ridgway to explain what he meant when he said the Defense Department tried to pressure him to fit his views to a "preconceived politico-military party line."

Ridgway also said that while he was Army chief of staff he felt he was "being called upon to destroy" U. S. fighting strength. Ridgway, now retired, made the statements Monday in the first of a series of articles written for the Saturday Evening Post.

Ridgway said the Defense Department tried to silence his criticism of its policies, and he also questioned the accuracy of a statement made by President Eisenhower.

Rep. Sikes (D-Fla.), chairman of the appropriations subcommittee handling Army funds, said Tuesday he would "invite" Ridgway to explain the statements "at his earliest convenience."

Rep. Flood (D-Pa.), a member of Sikes' subcommittee, told the House in a one-minute speech he believed Ridgway should be given an invitation to "spread all charges, all statements" on the committee records.

Sen. Mansfield (D-Mont.) suggested earlier that the Senate inquire into Ridgway's statements.

Road Program Financed By Gas Taxes Proposed

WASHINGTON (AP) — A 20-year roadbuilding program to be financed largely by an increase in federal gasoline taxes was proposed here by the Committee for Economic Development.

The CED placed no overall price tag on its proposal but recommended that the federal government bear 80 per cent of the cost of building a 40,000-mile interstate network of superhighways.

Research studies by the CED, a nonprofit organization of businessmen, have sometimes formed the basis for White House recommendations and congressional legislation.

The CED subcommittee which studied the highway problem recommended that its plan be financed largely by increasing the federal gasoline tax by 1 cent—to 3 cents a gallon.

The subcommittee described its plan as "somewhere between" two rival measures debated by Congress last year. Neither was adopted.

Ice Jam Drops Water Level On Lake St. Clair

MT. CLEMENS, Mich. (AP) — An ice jam on the St. Clair River, joining Lakes Huron and St. Clair, has dropped water levels in Lake St. Clair and threatens the water supply of three southeastern Michigan communities.

The Coast Guard said the jam extends 25 miles up river and is 28 feet thick in places.

The ice pack has backed up water in Lake Huron which normally would flow into Lake St. Clair. Lowering Lake St. Clair water levels threaten to drop below intake valves leading to filtration plants in Mt. Clemens, Fair Haven and New Baltimore. The three communities are located along Anchor Bay on the north shore of Lake St. Clair.

Ice and slush, catching in the intake valves, already have caused temporary shut-downs in filtration plants.

Reader Opinions

Reader Finds Fault With Handling Of Recent Story

ROSEBURG — (To the Editor) I wish to express my resentment and disapproval of your handling of the story concerning the 17-year-old girl who perpetrated the bombing hoax at the high school.

I have no quarrel with journalistic reporting facts, but the sensational headline printed in the Saturday News-Review amounts to abuse of the "Freedom of the Press" in my opinion.

The inference of your headline is that we have a dangerous, wicked, depraved criminal masquerading as a saintly child—which the facts as stated in your news story fail to prove or even state.

In your copywriter's search for a sensational headline in an effort to create extraordinary interest you are guilty of what the young girl was probably trying to do—create a sensation and have a key part in that sensation.

When our newspapers are so reckless of their responsibilities to the community what can we expect of our teen agers?

—C. J. Bates
Roseburg, Oregon.

4,000 Veterans Apply For Mortgage Insurance

SALEM (AP) — Four thousand veterans who have borrowed money from the state to finance farms and homes already have applied for the new mortgage cancellation life insurance, H. C. Saffield, state veterans director, said Tuesday.

This means that 44 per cent of the veteran borrowers have applied. Before the insurance plan becomes effective, 75 per cent must do so.

Saffield said that veterans who apply now won't have to take physical examinations. The insurance costs 28 cents a month for each \$1,000 of insurance.

The insurance covers the unpaid portion of the borrower's debt, and reduces as his mortgage principal goes down.

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