

The News-Review

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THE WATER RUCKUS

(This is the last of the editorials written from his hospital bed by Charles V. Stanton, editor of The News-Review. He has since been returned to his home in Roseburg.)

By Charles V. Stanton

SACRED HEART HOSPITAL, Eugene, Oregon: From this far away point, it is much easier to understand the water ruckus, the fight between the Water Resources Advisory Committee and the budget board, than if one were on top of it. I don't blame anyone. It is simply a matter of enthusiasm, I believe. It's the first of several differences of opinion which we may expect.

It is not good taste to say "I told you so," but readers of this column know how I stated at the beginning that our interest in water control would die. I held then, and still contend, that we get greatly concerned in time of flood, but we cool off as time goes on and no new floods happen.

We also have a great pride in the fact that the Umpqua Basin became the first to be given study by the Oregon Water Resources Board. We have had surveys by the Corps of Engineers and by the Bureau of Reclamation. We have had some partial recommendations concerning irrigation.

Personally, as readers of this column are aware, I share opinion with the county court when it comes to matters of irrigation and flood control. I contend—and I believe it is provable—that it is cheaper to buy outright the flood plain and its improvements than to put in control structures. And why pay for irrigation when we already are spending millions for farm surpluses?

Property Owners Enthused

On the other hand we have a large group of property owners, particularly property owners who have been hurt by flood, who have not lost their enthusiasm. They do not agree with my opinions on flood control.

But it will be recalled that I said in this column it would take many years to get the facts on water and water control. I said we would get tired before we gathered all the facts. We are showing signs of tiring.

Gathering information costs money. It takes lots and lots of time. It requires close attention to detail. It can't be done for nothing.

It is not at all surprising to find on one hand a group of men who want to save money for the county and who, like the vast majority of population, get excited about water control only during periods of flood, and, on the other hand, a group of people who can see so many things that ought to be done but aren't being done because the budget, even as it was, is still much too small.

Compromise Required

The budget committee is faced by the fact that county income will be down because timber sales during the past year were not high. At the same time we must not neglect our collection of water data.

I have personally been unhappy with the engineer's office. I have urged repeatedly that the activity be given more publicity; that more people be given jobs. I haven't gotten anywhere. You know engineers! They like to work with pencil and slide rule, away from the light of publicity. I still believe that if the activity were better known, it wouldn't now have the opposition that seems to be fast developing.

Here is a case, I believe, in which both sides are right. One properly wants to keep budget demands low. The other, filled with enthusiasm, wants the job done right without regard to cost.

Here is a point, in my opinion, that deserves compromise on both sides. All should realize that a fine job is being done; that it is a long, costly job. The cost can be reduced, at least temporarily. Both are right. The problem is to work out a satisfactory compromise.

—Bruce Blossat—

An economy feeds partly on itself, and when it cannot do that at a sufficient pace it is in trouble. That seems to be the biggest factor in the current American recession.

In other words, the economy is sustained and advanced not simply by producing and selling goods to consumers but by producing to enlarge and improve its own plant and equipment.

This kind of producing effort is what economists mean when they talk of "capital investment." This refers to the money that is put into the modernization and expansion of the industrial establishment.

BY NATURE, this effort involves use of heavy materials and machinery. Outlays are costly in terms of both men and materials.

When the investment is big and growing, as has been the case in most of the post World War II years, the impact on business generally is tremendous. A boom can have no greater stimulus. But when that investment slows off, a shrinkage in the economic base is inevitable.

That's what is bothering the U.S. economy today. Outlays in 1957 for new plant and equipment totaled 37 billion dollars, a record high. A few months ago the prospect for 1958 was set at 32 billion dollars, but now the estimate has been revised downward again to 30.8 billion, a potential decline of 17 per cent.

WE WILL NOT exactly be shrinking on the vine if we spend nearly 31 billion dollars to broaden and better our economic base this year. But on the other hand, we cannot take some 6 billion out of the money stream without pulling down sharply the general economic level.

On top of that, we are handicapped by a considerably reduced consumer demand for a good many things, particularly such durable goods as automobiles.

Bright spots have been appearing lately—the vastly improved farm price situation, heavier output of steel (perhaps in anticipation of a July price hike), slightly lower unemployment, and the like.

But warnings have been issued from many quarters in the last week or two that solid, sustained recovery cannot be counted upon until the key barometer—the amount of money invested in the country's economic future—shoots upward to 1957 levels and beyond.

Thinking It Over

By Robert L. Dieffenbacher, D. D.

(Written for NEA Service)

Death is a black end to earthly existence, which frightens many people. It is the most dreaded thing which can happen to many human beings. This dread must result from a misconception of death or from a fear of the hereafter.

If one has followed God's adversary, if one has worshiped Satan and lived on sin, if one has placed himself above God, or if one has taken over God's responsibility for seeing that justice is done, he may rightly fear death.

Actually, death for those who are children of God is merely a transition from the narrow limits of human life to the endless breadth of dwelling with the Father. The broad life which the soul will enjoy in heaven will be much different, more peaceful and more joyful than anything on earth. Heavenly souls will have no opportunity to worry, nor to look back on worldly suffering.

—Hal Boyle—

STAMFORD, Conn. (AP)—The Iron Curtain seems more easily pierced by air than on the ground.

At least radio amateurs of the United States and Soviet Russia find it simpler to communicate with each other on a person-to-person level than do political leaders of the great rival powers.

Ham radio station operators in the two countries strike up either wave friendships freely, apparently with no governmental objection from either side.

Perhaps a typical example of these new adventures in international understanding is the relationship between Frank Enge and Leo Shiskin.

Enge is supervisor of research and development for the American Machine & Foundry Co.'s electronics laboratory here. Shiskin is an electrical engineer in Moscow.

Their friendship started Aug. 11, 1956, when they first made contact via ham radio.

After that they quickly became pen pals. Leo asked Frank for copies of American radio journals, and sent him copies of Russian classical phonograph records for Frank's wife.

Congratulations On Sputnik

Frank congratulated Leo on the Russian scientific achievement when the first sputnik went aloft, and Leo replied in kind when the U.S. sent up Explorer I, adding: "Let our states be together on the earth as our man-made moons are in the sky."

That was the nearest the Russian ever came to a political remark, Enge said.

Shortly after their initial and only radio contact, Leo Shiskin lost his amateur license "for infractions of the rules," but he wrote Frank:

"My absence in the air has no relations to our mailing." However, he never did explain the nature of the violations that did cost him his license.

Leo wrote that he made about 1200 rubles a month (the ruble is officially pegged at 25 cents). "If I had a license," he only had to pay 50 rubles a month rent," Enge recalled, "but he had to share a communal apartment with four other families. The apartment had only one bathroom, one kitchen and one telephone."

Fourth Of Salary Taxes

"Leo also wrote that he had to pay a fourth of his salary—300 rubles a month—in income taxes, and that a suit cost him from 400 to 1,700 rubles. He said an old car would cost him 8,000 rubles, a new one 60,000 rubles."

Frank wrote back that his own income was about \$1,000 a month, that he had a 5-room, 2-bath apartment and owned two cars. "This comparison may have made Leo unhappy, but so far he hasn't said so," remarked Enge smiling.

Enge estimated that perhaps 12,000 of some 160,000 American radio hams have made contact with Russian amateurs. He estimated the number of Russian hams at 2,000. He himself has contacted radio amateurs in 15 of the Soviet republics.

Asked how he feels about Leo Shiskin, Enge said: "I have a lot of sympathy. I admire the wartime sacrifices of the Russian people, and feel they are trying very hard to make a better life for themselves. I don't feel that way about their government."

"I think if the Russian people knew the American people, and we knew more about them, there would be no need for an Iron Curtain."

Enge's views on the matter were reported to newsmen by Senate Republican leader William F. Knowland of California and House GOP chief Joseph W. Martin Jr. of Massachusetts. They held a news conference after their regular weekly meeting with the President.

McElroy attended the conference. Over the weekend, the secretary of defense had termed it "regrettable" that Burke, the chief of naval operations, had refused to support some features of the reorganization plan in testimony before a congressional committee.

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Portland Airport's New Terminal Set To Finish Aug. 1

PORTLAND (AP)—Work should be almost completed at the Portland International Airport's new four million dollar terminal building before Aug. 1, the scheduled date of its official opening.

That was the announcement Monday of John Schneider, chief architect, who said that although some workmen may stay over for finishing touches, construction should have reached "practical completion" by late July.

He said there may be a delay in facilities for handling customs and immigration, and in walkway connections to automobile parking areas. Otherwise construction is proceeding on schedule, despite separate installation projects by seven tenant airlines and a restaurant concessionaire.

Alan Mills, Port of Portland assistant general manager in charge of aviation, said a state law prohibiting sleeping rooms in buildings which have garages will prevent at least temporarily the full use of 19 roomettes.

There is a rental garage on the main floor of the terminal, so the roomettes will not include beds, although they will have showers, writing desks and chairs for business flights of passengers.

The next Oregon Legislature probably will be asked by port officials to modify the statute that prevents full use of the roomettes, port officials said.

Detroit Grocer Kills Holdup Man

DETROIT (AP)—Frank Pattitoni is a hero of Detroit's East Side again.

A small, white-haired man, Pattitoni, 69, shot and killed his second holdup man in four years at his grocery store last night.

As before, Dominic Solgu, 85, Pattitoni's friend for 30 years, was at hand—to help and be helped.

On June 3, 1954, Pattitoni shot a robber to death and wounded a second when they abused Solgu. For this Detroit police gave him their Citizens' Medal for Valor.

In the first World War, Pattitoni, onetime Italian immigrant, was decorated as a sharpshooter by the U. S. Army.

"Maybe they had a right to kick me around but they had no right to hit Dominic," Pattitoni said. Last night's incident was markedly similar.

Reader Opinions

Shorter School Day Called For By Woman

In reading Roseburg School Supt. Deller's report to the school board in its meeting on June 11, 1958, he said that he had received a request from some individuals to shorten the school day. The reasons that Mr. Deller gave for our wanting the school day shortened were very incidental in our discussion, and according to the newspaper account, very inaccurate and unfair.

For several years now I have been very concerned about the long school day which the fourth, fifth and sixth graders in Roseburg have to put in. Our children live one mile from the school, and they have to leave the house at 8 a.m. and return home at 4:30 p.m. This is as long a day as the average working person puts in. By the end of the week, these children are worn out and for no advantage. The educators realize the child's greatest learning capacity is in the morning hours, hence all of the academic subjects are scheduled then.

A child of this age should have more time at home forming a closer relationship with his mother. He should be allowed more than one hour a day to plan his own recreation and to be away from the school's supervision. These younger children are away at school for an hour to an hour and a half longer than the junior and senior high school students. It surely seems that it would be to everyone's advantage to have these younger children home earlier than the older ones, who could profit by spending more time in school.

Mrs. John Gardner
568 W. Chatham Dr.
Roseburg, Ore.

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60 Convicts Co-operate In Medical Research

WALPOLE, Mass. (AP)—Dr. Herbert Mescon, chief of dermatology at the Massachusetts Memorial Hospitals, says 60 state prison inmates have agreed to assist in medical research project aimed at finding out more about acne, a skin disorder chiefly afflicting teen-agers.

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