

OREGON *Daily* EMERALD

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Thin Ice

Thursday night's Register-Guard carried a full-sized reproduction of an accusation recently telegraphed to Robert S. Farrell, candidate for reelection to the position of secretary of state. Signed by one Russell Hogan of Portland, the telegram demands confirmation or denial of an accusation that Farrell, at the time of Pearl Harbor, took advantage of his official position to secure draft exemption. Further accusations venture that Farrell, having passed the physical examination, refused to accept a naval commission because he could reach no agreement with Governor Snell concerning his own successor to office. The published telegram closed with Hogan's expression of the belief that the 135,000 Oregon men and women who served in the war were entitled to Farrell's explanation.

Although the reproduction was clearly indicated as a "paid advertisement" it would take a great deal of legal assurance to convince us that the Guard or any other Oregon paper is not tiptoeing the fence between libel and fair comment by printing such an ad.

Precedent has established the rule that newspapers are liable, no less than their advertisers and writers, for the publication of defamatory remarks. If the ad were challenged in this case, a three-cornered case might result—involving the advertiser, the agency and the newspaper.

It is true that much campaign publicity has passed under the heading of "fair comment and criticism." It is also true that persons in public offices, such as Farrell, are legally subject to criticism in the execution of their official duties.

However, the phrase, "in the execution of their official duties" reveals the danger in this case. That an official's action in regard to enlistment or non-enlistment in the armed forces can be considered as "execution of office" appears to us doubtful.

Yet there is no doubt that the advertised telegram is defamatory in itself. If the truth of the accusations is established, the old "truth as a defense" maxim will apply. If not, there is a remote possibility that Mr. Baker and other Oregon publishers may find themselves with a libel suit on their hands.

Whether established as libelous or not in the future, the advertisement is an out-and-out violation of the Oregon fair practices act, which states in part: "No publisher of a newspaper . . . shall insert, either in its advertising or reading columns, any paid matter which is designed or tends to aid, injure, or defeat any candidate . . . unless . . . the name of the chairman or secretary, or the names of the other officers of the political or other organization inserting the same . . . appear in such advertisement in the nature of a signature."

The telegram reproduction in advertisement form was signed by the "Veterans Committee for Dave Epps" with no other signature than that of one Russell Hogan. There is no indication that Hogan is in any way officially connected with the organization as required in the above act.

Technically, the Guard and other newspapers publishing this advertisement may prove to be in the clear . . . yet the ice looks very thin from where we stand.

Townsend-Sponsored Old Age Pension Bill Discussed by Student

(Nos. 314 and 315 on the Official Ballot)
 By DONALD H. COULTER

Purpose: The bill is designed to provide a maximum pension of \$100 per month for life to every citizen of Oregon 60 years of age or over and to every physically disabled citizen over 18 years of age.

Tax to Create "Oregon Pension Plan Fund": Beginning July 1947, a 3 per cent gross income tax is to be levied against all personal and business incomes taxable by the State of Oregon, this tax to be in addition to all other existing taxes. The term "gross income" includes all receipts from personal services, profits, sales, interest, or from any other source; and no expense whatsoever is deductible from amounts of income so received. The tax and resulting pension fund will be administered by the State Tax Commission. Exemptions from the 3 per cent tax include: the first \$100 of monthly income (\$1200 annually); money received as a deposit or trust; the gross income from the non-profit activities of lodges, hospitals, churches, schools, business leagues, labor organizations etc.

Tax Returns and Tax Payments: Tax returns and tax payments are to be made monthly to the State Tax Commission, and are due on the 10th day of the month next following the monthly period covered by the return. The act provides punishments by penalizing tax, fine, and imprisonment for evasion of the tax provisions of the act. In addition, the Tax Commission is empowered to issue a warrant authorizing a sheriff's sale of real and personal property of a delinquent taxpayer to satisfy a tax remaining un-

paid for 30 days; such warrant is to be entered on judgment docket in the county clerk's office, and is to be given the same effect as a judgment entered in a court of law.

Payment of Pension Benefits: After deducting necessary administrative expenses, the tax fund realized in the third preceding month will be equally divided among the duly qualified and participating pensioners. However, in no instance, will a pension recipient be entitled to more than \$100 per month; and any excesses remaining in the monthly fund after payment of pensions will be transferred to the State School Support Fund.

Eligibility for Pension: The following qualifications govern eligibility for pension participation:

- (1) The pensioner must be a citizen of Oregon 60 years of age or over. (Or if over 18 years of age and suffering such permanent physical disability as to prevent earning a normal livelihood.)
- (2) The pensioner must be a qualified resident of Oregon for five years preceding July 1, 1946. (Provision is made to adjust residential qualification where the five year standard is inapplicable.)
- (3) The pensioner must have no source of income other than federal Social Security benefits, industrial pensions, insurance payments, etc., previously earned.
- (4) The pensioner must agree to spend the entire proceeds of the pension within 30 days after its receipt.
- (5) The State Tax Commission is charged with the duty to determine eligibility of pensioners, such determination being subject to judicial review.

About Yardsticks

With religious emphasis week a thing of the past it might be well now to do a little stock-taking, to examine our own minds in search of mental and ethical yardsticks.

A program such as we had on the campus this week will probably not swell church attendance noticeably, and it will probably not, of itself, bring about a more widespread observance of the ten commandments. Its great contribution will doubtless prove to have been a "shaking-up" of our minds, an implanting of the suggestion that we substitute Christ for Machiavelli.

That "The world is too much with us late and soon" is an idea that may have occurred to many of us in the war years and in these crucial months since, but there has been no widespread acceptance of a substitute for the Great God Expediency. More and more we have cast aside one yardstick while failing to pick up another. If religious emphasis week leaves a germ of thought in the direction of renewed ethical and moral concepts it will have achieved a noble goal.

The Emerald advocates more campus programs of this type, and hopes other philosophical patterns may be examined from time to time—always with full freedom given "dissenters" to come and disagree as they did at the "Skeptics' Hour" this week. A dose of skepticism is what differentiates a university from a mere knowledge mill.

Religious emphasis week has proved itself on the campus and should become an annual feature of the intellectual side of our extra-curricular lives.

LEFT of center By G. Holcomb

Well, the planless economists are having their field days now. They—mostly Republicans (Rep. Ellsworth)—wanted the return to the economy of "everybody for himself." They managed to scotch OPA.

Meanwhile, the treasury department states that Americans are cashing in their war bonds at an unprecedented rate. The reason is obvious. If you are a veteran university student, e.g., your \$65 check is worth only \$44.85 as compared to 1941 cost of living index. If you're married, your \$90 is really only \$62.10! Labor is feeling the pinch, too, and is getting set for some more crippling strikes. And can anyone blame them?

Mr. Ellsworth

Harris Ellsworth has fought the OPA all the way. BUT, he did vote for the legislation to make it legal for prices to rise, which President Truman vetoed! He could just as well have voted for the last feeble,

suicidal bill which is going rapidly out of circulation but he didn't.

Mr. Ellsworth is a staunch advocate of freedom. He voted against the Patman housing bill, the housing stabilization bill in March, the veterans' emergency housing act, so that veterans could be free—to compete with industry to see who would be housed first, the veterans or industry!

Mr. Ellsworth believes in freedom. He voted to strike out the price ceilings on old houses! Too much restriction!

Good old freedom, such a kicking around it gets! The Republican representative from the fourth district in Oregon voted against federal interference with education—that is, against federal aid to states for school lunches!!

And furthermore, Mr. Ellsworth demonstrated his absolute belief in complete freedom by voting against the cancer research bill

sponsored by the administration. After all, even cancer has a few rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of victims. Doesn't it?

Well, we shouldn't be unfair; Republican Ellsworth did vote for Democrat Truman's sponsored bill on one notable occasion.

Anti-Strike

The occasion? The atrocious anti-strike bill, which was later considerably diluted by such as Senator Morse. Yes, on that occasion Ellsworth sided with Truman.

But the Democratic administration generally wasn't against labor. Ellsworth was though!

He voted against the "Full Employment Bill"; voted in favor of the (anti) labor disputes act, and the Case labor bill.

That's the record. Dr. Louis A. Wood, Ellsworth's opponent, needs only one qualification for office. He has it. What? A belief in action in favor of the consumer, the veteran, labor, and the farmer and the nation as a whole, instead of the kind of consistent obstruction and negation which the incumbent Ellsworth so obviously favors.

I fear there is no space left for comment by and concerning a member of the FAI, Federation, International, of Anarchists. Next time, perhaps.

The copies of the Emerald that are placed in the Co-op are only for students who do not room in living organizations.

NEW MAKE-UP!

ANGEL FACE
 by POND'S

Easier to apply than cake make-up!
 Stays on longer than powder!
 Can't spill in your handbag!

GOES ON WITHOUT WATER!
 ... AND STAYS!



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