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REPORT ON CONGRESS

The "fair deal" program of the present administration has had tough sledding and aside from the extension of rent control, no major legislation of any consequence has been passed. This is quite a different picture from that presented last November at the general election. Without question congress is more economy minded now than at any time in the past-eight years and this attitude can be ascribed largely to the change in our economic outlook. It seems certain that we have passed the period of the seller's market and to a point where jobs are scarcer and where competition is keener.

Gone by the board at least for the present is the prospect of repealing the Taft-Hartley act, the \$4,000,000,000 tax increase, the expanded social security, the Columbia Valley authority, the new farm subsidy plan and the standby authority for price controls and allocations is as dead as a dodo.

The situation is summed up by one writer as follows:

"Why should the President's program have encountered such heavy going? There are various reasons. First, many Congressional Democrats, especially in the Senate, are conservatively inclined and have little use for what is being called the "Tru-Deal"—they fear it would result in state socialism. Second, the President has antagonized some of the more influential lawmakers by what they regard as a demanding, dictatorial attitude. Third, the decline in business, even though it has been moderate, has developed an attitude of watchful waiting, and Congress doesn't want to depress things further if it can help it.

"Next session may tell a different story—the President is organizing for battle. But he's making small headway this time."

IRON-CLAD CENSORSHIP

Under an order recently issued by the Secretary of Defense, the most complete censorship yet known in this country over the dissemination of information of a military character has been established.

The order established what is known as the "Security Review Branch." This branch is given the power to review informational material of any nature from military sources, and to decide what may be made public. The military sources covered by the order include, along with regular military personnel, civilian employees of the various branches of military service, active reserve personnel, retired military personnel, and so on. The order even includes "transcript of testimony before committees of Congress in executive session by personnel subject to military jurisdiction."

All of us realize the necessity for guarding information which might be of value to foreign powers and which affects our national security. But that is a very different thing from the creation of an all-powerful censorship board which, if it so desires, can prevent any and all debate upon policy by the people who know the most about it, and abolish informed criticism. If that happens, the citizens of the country will know as much or as little about military affairs as the Secretary of Defense permits.

Writing in the Pensacola, Florida, Journal, George Dixon says of the order: "Its net effect would seem to be as absolute as anything ever issued by the Soviet cominform." Censorship of this kind should be repugnant to a free people.

HOW FAR SHOULD EDUCATION GO?

The common conception of education today is that it prepares one for better living. In a good many instances we are afraid that the purpose has been missed so far as a good many students go, since in a number of instances college students appear to experience considerable difficulty in finding themselves after graduation. This leads to the conclusion that in quite a few instances, it is time wasted for the college student.

Both the high school and college graduate who has or shortly will receive his or her diploma will find the outlook altered somewhat from that even a short twelve months ago. Openings for positions and jobs are definitely harder to get now than at any period during the past eight or nine years and this applies particularly to the "glamour professions". Some contend that we are getting back to normal, but it would be difficult to define just what constitutes normal times since economically we are in the process of readjustment. The so-called material progress looking toward better living has changed the economic setup, so that we have to adjust ourselves to it. All of which makes it difficult to establish a hard and fast rule as to what constitutes normalcy.

The real test as to whether you have what it takes in the way of education is finding your place after you finish school.



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Letter From Washington

By Harris Ellsworth, Representative in Congress
From Oregon's Fourth Congressional District

The grave concern being generally expressed here regarding the increased spending and decreasing tax income is definitely affecting legislation recently before the House. From my point of view the realization of the federal financial situation has arrived late. Legislation now pending and having the blessing of the President would add billions to an already too large budget.

Recently a bill to increase the pay of the armed forces was unexpectedly sent back to committee. The fact is a pay increase bill should be passed. Some officer grades have had no increase in pay since before World War I. However, the armed force committee of the House was too generous. The increase bill they brought in would cost more than \$400 million annually. It was doubtful that even that figure would have passed the House, but on top of that an amendment adding another hundred million or so was adopted by the committee of the whole House. So by the time the bill came up for final passage a majority of the membership believed the sum to be too high and the bill was sent back to committee on a recommendation motion—and by a surprisingly large vote.

What happened to the ECA (European Cooperation Administration) appropriation was also due directly to the realization that we are over-extending ourselves financially. The appropriation committee made a 15 per cent cut straight across the board. The House modified the cut somewhat—allowed it to stand but provided that the full amount might be expended during the fiscal year if the Administrator requests additional funds and the President approves. The proviso is clearly for the purpose of meeting unforeseen conditions brought about by crop failure or other disaster. Otherwise cooperation with Europe will be 15 per cent less than requested in the President's budget.

The so-called Federal Housing bill will soon come before the House. Signs now indicate this bill will suffer a fate similar to the military pay increase bill—if it is not defeated outright.

The House bill has very little or nothing to do with making it easier for people to buy, build or rent houses for themselves. It consists solely of the three sections of the big Housing bill last year which was stopped in the house of representatives after being passed by the Senate. These three sections provided for public housing, slum clearance and farm housing. It is estimated the total cost of this bill would be \$19 BILLION over a period of years—and by the public housing enthusiasts that is said to be just a beginning.

Under the public housing section of the bill the government would build up to a million housing units and rent them at less than cost—a rent subsidy to people who live in them which would total some \$400 million per year.

The slum clearance section of the Housing bill is the best feature in it, but it too would cost into the hundreds of millions. So far as the farm loan feature is concerned, it is generally conceded to be a political move to help the tenant farmer of the south—a little bit—and therefore was designed to get Southern votes. It calls for an outright grant of cash plus a loan to low income or unsuccessful farms.

It seems to me the Housing bill is a very much misunderstood measure. I am sure that many people in Oregon, for example, believe the pending Housing bill would ease the housing situation in some Oregon communities. That is definitely not the case. Public housing will be built in only a few large cities. It will quite likely be used as a patronage bid for increased votes in some city areas. Under a previous public housing bill, Texas received the greatest number of units and Florida was a close second.

At the beginning of this letter I mentioned the adverse financial condition of the federal government. It is serious. Without any decrease in income tax payments the President estimated a deficit of nearly a billion dollars if his budget was approved. Since he delivered his budget message it is clear that federal income will be a great deal less than estimated—and the income barometer is falling every day.

The European situation is still deadly serious. We are committed to a program of assistance there which, though costly, we cannot afford to abandon—particularly while the foreign ministers are endeavoring to establish a basis for actual peace. We cannot make much of a cut in our defense program because to do so would indicate weakness and invite attack. We cannot eliminate the cost of carrying out commitments made to veterans. These three items account for three-fourths of our budget. Substantial cuts in the remainder of the budget should be made but there is no indication that such cuts will be made. Our country is almost in trouble without embarking upon any great housing, socialized medicine or other spending ideas running into

billions. At least that is the way I feel about it. Our first duty is the protection of the financial solvency of our country.

The Department of Justice, or whatever federal law enforcement agency has responsibility under the circumstances, is already a two-time loser on bail-jumper Gerhart Eisler. He apparently gained entrance into the U. S. under questionable legal circumstances and our courts found him in contempt of Congress and guilty of executing false documents. Now he has escaped the toils of the law and is in Europe—or some place across the water. So far as I am concerned, we may as well call it a draw and start over. Only this time we should make certain we don't lose the third time by letting the fellow back into the country. We have too many of his sort now. Norway has a rascal like him by the name of Quisling.

Several times I have mentioned the fact that the trial of Alger Hiss was repeatedly postponed. As this is written, he is actually being tried. I shall keep my fingers crossed until some decision is reached in his case. Watch for funny legal operations. If this trial reaches a final conclusion, I shall be surprised—and delighted. Notice, please, that in making this comment, I do not express hope of a verdict of "guilty." This man Hiss is either guilty as charged or innocent. Whichever it is should be established by the court, and soon.

The Federal Public Housing bill, H.R. 4009, has not yet been sent to the floor by the House Rules Committee. I mentioned this bill in my letter last week. You may be interested in recent developments. The Rules Committee has had the bill under consideration for a couple of weeks or more. This Committee, by the way, consists of 8 democrats and 4 republicans.

The Committee has been disturbed by the fact that the bill has not had the customary clearance and approval by the Bureau of the Budget. It is such an important bill and involves the expenditure of so many billions of dollars that it seemed only right and proper that the President's Bureau of the Budget should give the Committee and the House of Representatives the benefit of its views. The Committee decided to make formal inquiry of the Bureau.

In its letter of inquiry the Committee requests opinion and advice in general on the bill and then asks three specific questions.

First—It is pointed out that the Housing Administrator will be empowered to make capital grants of hundreds of millions of dollars for which the credit of the U. S. is pledged and the following question is asked: "Does not this subsection in effect constitute an actual appropriation for future years which cannot be reviewed in any way by the proper Appropriating Committees of the House and Senate?"

Second—The Rules Committee points out that subsidy financing which might total over \$16 BILLION in the next 44 years is provided for in the bill in such wording that Congress would not have anything further to do with it, and asked this question: "Do you favor making a binding commitment of this kind for outright grants without any responsibility of review in the next 44 years?"

Third—The Committee next points out that the total capital cost of the million housing units would come to \$8,750,000,000. Then it shows that the subsidy payments of \$400,000,000 annually for 40 years would be sufficient to pay interest and amortization on \$11,300,000,000. In simple language what the committee says is that the government could today borrow \$11.3 billion and construct all of the housing units contemplated under the language of the bill, then give them away free of charge and thereby make a net saving of \$2,500,000,000 to the taxpayers. The following question is then asked: "Is it in accord with the President's program that Federal subsidies for low-rent housing should exceed by a considerable margin the entire construction cost of such housing?"

It seems to me those are very pertinent questions. The reply, if any, made by the Bureau of the Budget should be most interesting.

CANDID FORESTRY TO APPEAR IN SENTINEL

"CANDID FORESTRY," an educational cartoon on interesting and little-known facts about West Coast forest, appears for the first time today in the Sentinel. This unusual feature is drawn by Art Bimrose, well-known Portland newspaper artist, and will become a regular monthly feature of this newspaper.

Foresters, educators and writers have pooled their knowledge of the forest into this distinctive feature which is ably drawn by Art Bimrose. We believe it will answer many of the questions about our great Douglas fir forestlands and in a style which will appeal to all of our readers from the youngest to the oldest.

ME AND MY SHADOW



Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

The U. S. Bureau of Labor statistics has published a book by Witt Bowden, called "Gift of Freedom," to be given world-wide distribution. It was written to answer some of the lies that Communists have spread about our squalor, insecurity, and class warfare.

"Gift of Freedom" purports to be a true story of how we live, based on federal statistics. It shows that every man, woman and child averages one egg a day in America and 2.8 pairs of shoes a year, and how much labor is consumed to produce them.

Lawrence R. Klein, editor of the Labor Review, technical journal of the Labor Department, thinks one of the most startling things in the book will be a picture of a poor boy brushing his teeth, in a bathroom, with a washstand, tub, toilet, mirror, running water and soap.

"Gift of Freedom" may be good gospel for people denied the comforts and conveniences so common to our way of life; but whoever got the idea that American freedom was a gift reckoned in the terms of eggs!

Our freedom came on no Christmas tree. It was purchased by starving patriots at the price of blood. And unless we are as willing to go hungry and unshod to preserve that ideal, we could one day become the spiritually impoverished, fat-headed slaves of a materialistic Soviet.

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To Whom It May Concern

A long time ago when we came to Oregon, year 1886, nothing much around here but timber. There were a few donation claims. Jack Sears, Felix Currin, Greenleaf Van Scholack, Allen Kirk, Pret Christman, Bake Stewart, and a few more, well any way we had a post office. First one I remember it was Lemati, next time it was, Chrisman, then Red Rock, and last it was to be changed again, was named after Dora Burnett and Rene Chrisman, two young ladies living here. Dorena, our first school house, was made of rough lumber. Then we began to build good ones of which were sold to government for the dam site. We

The Human Race



Cup Presented to George Booth for Rescuing Girl

George Booth, who saved the life of Eva M. Huston from drowning in Row river on May 3, 1949 was in the Cottage Grove Sentinel Tuesday with the cup presented to him by the 7-year-old girl in appreciation for saving her life. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer A. Huston of Payette, a town in eastern Oregon. Mr. Booth said he never had quite such an experience, and that he was in the water for 48 minutes, being carried from side to side in the terribly strong undercurrent, and for a time he was afraid they would both be drowned.

Besides sending Mr. Booth the cup, she also sent him her new gold locket and chain as a keepsake. Her father offered Mr.

Booth \$1000 at the time, but Mr. Booth refused it.

The cup which is now on display in the Community Jewelers' window bears the inscription: "Presented to George H. Booth May 3, 1949 for his bravery in saving my life from drowning. Forever indebted, Eva M. Huston."

PDG CLUB TO SPONSOR JUNIOR FLOWER DIVISION

The PDG garden club met Friday with Mrs. J. F. Godard for a 1:30 dessert. The club decided to cooperate in a state wide program for junior gardening by sponsoring a junior flower division and offering cash prizes at the Southern Lane county fair. Any junior interested in this project can get further information by calling Mrs. Henry Arrp or Mrs. Martin Foster at Lorane.

Loose Leaf Forms—The Sentinel.

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