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Easter Seals Help Him



Eight-year-old Chester Doane of Port Orford, Ore., a cerebral palsy victim, practices climbing stairs at the Easter Seal agency's children's hospital school in Eugene. Mrs. Helen Dittman, physical therapist, lends an assist. The hospital school is financed by the sale of Easter Seals.

THE HOTTEST ISSUE The county manager plan promises to be the hottest issue of the May primary, despite the largest number of candidates in several years including seven for one county office. Opposing forces are already marshalling forces to carry on a vigorous battle. Regardless of your personal conviction in the matter, every voter owes it to himself or herself to study the issue and read the proposed charter under which the county manager form of government would operate if approved.

We have read the charter as printed and found it pretty vague on many points. So far as we can see the county manager would have practically absolute control of all county affairs. Under his control would be the appointment of all county officers as we know them. He can direct the activities of the county peace officers including the sheriff and district attorney and can appoint the tax assessor as well as to establish tax valuations through constituted officers as set up by the charter. As interpreted by those opposing the plan, the late dictators we have known did not have anything on the county manager, once the plan was operating for the powers to enforce the law as well as to tax the people would be in his hands. As we read the charter the board of supervisors or what ever you choose to call the seven men merely act in an advisory capacity.

As we have stated before the matter of getting a man to fulfill the bill as might be expected under a plan of this sort would be quite a chore. To be successful he should above all be honest and efficient. He should not only be a good administrator, but a man who knows how to get along with the people. He should be a good financier, enough of an engineer to know something about road construction and have read enough law to be a fair lawyer.

The county manager plan is often compared with the superintendent of schools or we should say a superintendent of schools, but the comparison is absurd to our way of thinking. The superintendent of schools is concerned chiefly with one thing; managing the affairs of the school so that the youngsters get the best education possible. On the other hand the county manager has to concern himself with the collection of taxes, building roads, directing the county relief, directing the county schools, directing the county health department, directing law enforcement and numerous other matters which are usually considered by the county court.

Members of the county board would get about enough out of the deal to pay their expenses. Proponents of the plan have advanced the argument that good men could be secured for this job because it would be put up to them as more or less of a patriotic duty and that very likely men who have made their stake and retired could be induced to accept a position of this sort. Under our present system this could be possible, but it is rarely done. The fact is offices under the present system with much better pay have attracted few candidates. We think perhaps our best answer to the problem of getting competent officials would be to raise the salaries still further. That's a step which has been suggested and a step which might be taken by private business.

In fact in our own profession, if we can't get the efficiency we think we ought to have and get to the place where the going gets hard, we would strain a point to hire an efficiency expert; one who could walk into our print shop and tell us what to do. Men of this type are available to business and to county government such as Lane. The present and future officials of the county could be persuaded to abide by the findings of such an expert, we believe.

Proponents of the county manager plan go on the assumption that who ever hired the manager would get a good one the first crack out of the box. They don't have any argument for what's likely to happen if they don't and like Cottage Grove did.

A VETERAN'S VIEW OF THE HOOVER COMMISSION We have been a member of the American Legion since it was founded. And we hope to remain a member the remainder of our life. But that does not mean we put in with everything the Legion — or its leadership, perhaps — does. And we believe there are many other members of the largest and strongest veterans' organization in the world who agree with us.

The American Legion, through its national commander, has launched a frontal assault on the Hoover Commission recommendations regarding veterans' affairs. As so often happens when logic is lacking, the organization overstates its case, substituting vehemence for argument.

The Hoover commission's recommendations, it declares in a broadside, makes veterans "the targets of a vicious attack" and amount to "another knife in the back of the men and women who have honorably served their country in time of war at a serious sacrifice to their own personal welfare."

It is no disparagement of the service and sacrifice of veterans to say that this is plain hogwash. Any veteran who stops to think about it certainly must know the Hoover Commission was not vicious and was not attacking his rights in any way when it proposed reorganization of the Veterans Administration.

The American Legion's assault on these recommendations looks less like a defense of veterans' interests than like a defense of its own power as a manipulator of the Veterans Administration.

The broadcast is issued by the organization's national headquarters says that "every legionnaire, every post . . . should . . . contact your senators and congressmen . . . and do it in such a forceful manner that they will know you mean what you say! And that time for silk gloves is past. Now it is time to take off the gloves . . . use brass knucks if necessary."

On the contrary, it is time for Congress to tell the American Legion to take stock of itself and to take off the brass knucks, which it has used effectively many times in the past.

But it is time for the American Legion and its allies to stop acting as though the veterans of this nation are and want to be a specially privileged class, set apart from the remainder of the population.

The veterans do constitute a large and important segment of the citizenship and the body politic and because of their numbers, if for no other reason, they have the same essential interest in good management and economy throughout the government as all the other citizens of the United States, which the Hoover Commission recommends.—Artesia (N.M.) Advocate.

Young Wife: What is this ticket, darling? Hubby: Only a pawn ticket. Young Wife: Why didn't you get two, then we could both go?

Barber: "Was your tie red when you came in?" Customer: "Of course not." Barber: "Gosh."

United Nations Experts Map Highway Network for Europe

GENEVA—Europe now has a plan for a continental highway system, its first since the fall of Rome. The plan foresees a road network of 23 major and 61 feeder routes, linking cities as far apart as Helsinki and Marseilles, Edinburgh and Rome. It was drawn up here by transport experts from 10 European countries and the USA, meeting under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

The highway experts believe that better roads will not only improve intra-European commerce and ease the way for travellers but will also help European of different countries learn to understand each other better as a result of freer flow of ideas, goods and people from one nation to another. They point out that the highway plan for Europe is similar to the highly-beneficial network worked out in the USA by the United States Public Roads Administration in Cooperation with the states.

ECE has already laid down standards for improving existing European roads and building new ones. The standards cover road width, crossfalls, gradients, alignments, curves, types of pavement, intersections, visibility, bridges, tunnels and other important engineering questions.

Three categories of roads are provided for in the standards. The first includes two-lane highways approximately 23 feet wide—much broader than the average European roads. The second class covers ten-foot wide lanes separated by a central strip. The third category consists of three-lane roads, totaling 33-feet in width. In addition, cycle tracks and footpaths would be provided wherever traffic makes them necessary.

The second over-all step in turning highway plans into reality is already underway. ECE sent a questionnaire to the countries involved, asking whether manpower, material and equipment for road building would be available in the next ten years. Most countries have already replied that labor and material could be found. Many nations, however, lack some of the road-building materials and equipment

necessary and, therefore, ECE is now studying financing methods. Another great project involving roads, meanwhile, is also underway as the result of an agreement between France and Italy. This project—part of a much needed general effort to eliminate natural barriers to automobile travel—provides for the construction of a tunnel through the Alps near Mont Blanc, the highest mountain in Europe.

(The perennial engineering dream of building a tunnel under the English Channel has also been discussed, but experts do not regard this as feasible yet.)

FARMERS HAVE STAKE IN SOCIAL SECURITY Many farmers and farm workers in Lane county have a stake in the federal social security program, according to Paul F. Johnson, manager of the local social security office.

Although farm work is not covered by the present social security law, more than one-third of the farm operators in the county have built up wage credits in the Federal Old Age and Survivors Insurance system, Johnson said.

He estimated that nearly one-half of the hired farm workers in the county have some social security credits.

"We suggest, however, that those who have previously contributed to the old-age and survivors insurance trust fund should check on the present status of their social security accounts, especially if they are nearing age 65. The local office at Eugene, Oregon, will be glad to assist in getting this information.

Both retirement benefits at age 65, and death benefits to workers' families, are based on having a sufficient amount of covered employment. Those not insured at this time may possibly obtain additional coverage by getting part-time or seasonal jobs in industry."

Rural residents who acquire an "insured status" under social security have a special advantage when they reach 65, according to Johnson. They may receive old-age retirement benefits while continuing their agricultural work.

Everybody reads the Classified.

Washington Letter

As this rather futile session of congress grinds on toward the half-way mark it is becoming more and more apparent that nothing much will be done this year. In one way that is a good thing. The Administration's demands for socialistic legislation are being flatly ignored. On the other hand, congress most certainly should act on several fairly important matters this year. It should make substantial progress toward adopting recommendation made by the Hoover Commission. It should get rid of most of the war excise taxes. The Administration should quit playing politics with the Taft-Hartley law and cease blocking the passage of several important amendments.

There is considerable other important and desirable legislation pending, but there does not seem much likelihood now that the strife-torn "majority" in this congress will be able to agree on very much of it.

The failure of the 81st congress—both last year and this year thus far—to do much of anything of a constructive nature seems to illustrate an important point. Ostensibly overwhelmingly controlled by the administration—certainly controlled by the administration's party—the majority members of the 81st congress have declined to follow the President's leadership. The point is that congress in 1948 meant that the people of the country want the enactment of his socialistic program.

What this situation really means is that the people must again in a few months indicate by their ballots the kind of a federal government they want. One third of the senators and all of the 435 members of the House of Representatives will be up for election. Most democratic party candidates—particularly those opposing incumbent republicans will campaign as supporters of the President's program. Without the fanfare of a presidential campaign to confuse the real issues, the voters will calmly make their choice. This is the way our system of representative government works.

At the end of the seventh month of fiscal 1950, the federal government deficit was \$3,256,146,000. Treasury reports show that expenditures ran that much higher than revenues in the period from July 1 to January 31. The financial plight of the government on January 31 was almost three times as bad as a year ago when the government was \$1,448,867,000 in the hole on current operations.

Letter to the Editor

If I can show a little kindness to the people I work beside. If they are disgusted and angry and I'm man enough to help them decide. If I can make their burdens lighter, with a simple little smile. If I could overlook the discouraging beeping, that comes once in a while. Or listen to their stories, knowing they are out of line. If I can keep the school and school employees doing fine. Then I feel that I'm not just another fellow nor just GI Joe. But a true blue good fellow, no matter where I go. Culp Creek School Chairman,

Today's Best Buy To the Editor: One of the cheapest things you can buy in town today is a hair cut for \$1.00. Most of us remember that back in '14 we got 50 cents for a hair cut. At the same time you could buy a sack of sugar for little over \$3.00 per hundred, a sack of flour for \$1.00 and the best tailor made clothes for \$32.00, shoes from \$3.00 to \$7.00.

Now the unions are taking shorter hours, 5 days per week and more money for an hours work, but we will have to wait and see what the democrats are going to do. Chas. H. Boslaugh

Response Generous Belated but most sincere, I wish to thank the editor and Sentinel staff for the cooperation extended in printing the list of the various articles needed to make our project successful. The very kind folks were most generous to my request for articles needed at the mental hospital.

I had all told seven different articles, clothing, books, gar- and toiletries. In fact it was very gratifying too, when people realize the needs of those not able to get things for themselves, give willingly and generously. To all, my most sincere thanks for our VFW auxiliary and myself. Mary L. Duffy.

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