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IT'S YOUR INFLATION

Life magazine recently published one of the best editorials on inflation which has yet appeared. It dealt with the Administration's "cheap money" policy which has made higher prices and depreciated currency inevitable. At the end it said, "The vast maze of federal lending agencies which together make the U. S. Government the biggest source of 'private' credit are going right ahead with loan policies which also stimulate inflation and further shave your dollar. Spokesmen for such respected groups as the Twentieth Century Fund and the Committee for Economic Development cry at the tops of their voices that insinuations of this sort may draw the country into an extreme inflation that could be avoided. All the Charles Wilsons, Eric Johnstons and Michael DiSalles in Washington cannot prevent or cure this inflation with price, wage and commodity controls if the root fiscal causes of inflation are not only unchecked but actually encouraged . . .

"It's your money. It's your inflation. Better speak up, while three cents still pays the postage on a letter to Washington."

Largely due to high-level political blandishments, millions of people have placed a wholly unjustified faith in the power of arbitrary controls to stop price rises, and even to roll prices back to the levels of the first of the year, or pre-Korea or some other arbitrary date. At the same time, millions of people have been led to place the blame for inflation on doorsteps which are wholly or largely innocent. We blame the producer—forgetting that his dollar has cheapened just as ours has, and that his costs are swollen. We even blame the retailer with whom we do our day-to-day trading—despite the obvious fact that he must pay the going wholesale rate for his goods, and that his prices to us are simply based on current costs.

In other words, the emphasis has not been on the causes of inflation, but on the symptoms of inflation which are high prices and a fifty-cent dollar. The government has steadily evaded taking the only actions which can block inflation, and it has gone steadily ahead with policies in the field of money and credit which are inflationary. That is an economic crime against a misled people.

CRIME RECORD GETTING WORSE

From reports of Sen. Estes Kefauver and the congressional committee investigating crime over the United States, it is indicated that crime, gambling and racketeering is flourishing over the nation as bad or worse than it did during the prohibition days, which according to the anti-prohibitionists was pretty bad. We have been fed propaganda for the past few years that everything had faded out when liquor was legalized, but facts uncovered recently lead to different conclusions.

Syndicated crime and racketeering may have started back in 1928, but it has flourished practically uninterrupted since that time with the exception of a few localities.

And crime flourished because of public indifference. In the big cities the voting public turned the government over to the corrupt politicians.

You have heard the story that the way to control gambling was to legalize it and let everybody that wanted to gamble, but the racketeers have "muscle in" even where gambling was legalized. So that has not controlled it.

BILL KNOCKS FIRST ACCIDENT

Under the present liability law, a motorist is allowed to have one accident with no requirement for revocation of his license on account of lack of insurance against death or injury of the victim or damage to property.

Under bill SB 285, introduced in the state legislature at the request of the state grange, provision is made for revocation of license unless the driver of the car is able to file bond or security covering the accident. Under the present law the driver gets his first accident free, which has been pretty costly. The bill has passed the state senate.

TIGHTENING LIQUOR ENFORCEMENT

Portland is among the localities of the state, moving to tighten the enforcement of the state liquor law by screening tavern keepers. No tavern keeper with a criminal record would be licensed by the city or by the locality. So far as we know, such screening has never been tried in the state. Up to now almost anybody could get a permit to operate a beer joint and few questions would be asked.

There have also been complaints issued here and elsewhere regarding the fact that most taverns stay open seven days a week, Sundays included.

Letter From Washington

House Flooded by Propaganda

by Harris Ellsworth
Representative, Fourth District

While the House of Representatives debates the bill which would extend selective service and establish a system of universal military training we members, and the people of the country too, are being subjected to a flood of propaganda. It happens that the weight of the drive for and against the bill is somewhere near equal—or so it seems to me, but the job being done on both sides approaches the hysterical.

Supporters of the bill speak darkly of the present international situation. General Marshall has loaned his integrity for this purpose, declaring the present outlook very dark indeed. Others pretend to have "inside dope" to the effect that masses of troops "not all of them Chinese" are assembling across the Korean border ready to march—and so start World War III. They may be right. I don't know, but I have heard this same cry of "wolf" every time during the last three years that we have had a military bill or a foreign aid bill before us.

Opponents of the bill call it immoral, unchristian and dwell heavily upon the charge that its passage will create a military dictatorship—or worse. Maybe THEY are right.

I have endeavored to ignore all emotional and propaganda appeals on both sides of this question, and have sought to base my own opinion on facts and common sense. I am trying to dismiss my own instinctive dislike of the whole program and be strictly realistic and practical.



LEGISLATURE IN CAPSULES

There is little chance of extensive construction of state building during the coming biennium. All state building will be held to vital emergency cases.

A great variety of tax raising measures are under consideration that include lowering income tax exemptions, a general sales tax, raising the states profit on whiskey, boosting and widening the gift tax, a general business tax, boosting the corporation excise tax, a cigarette tax, a state property tax and even a poll tax is on the proposal list.

A measure designed to make it more difficult to get initiative and referendum measures on the ballot was defeated in the house last week, reconsidered and passed. If the measure passes the senate the proposal will be on the ballot November 1952.

A measure to have the legislature meet annually is psychologically timed. Members of the present session have labored long weary hours in committee rooms trying to do a good job. They get \$600 a year (we had this wrong last week) and a 60-day session should be about right but the pay should be raised. Ten dollars a day is not enough for meager expenses. They may put a measure to the people to create annual sessions.

Under the act recently passed by the current legislature creating a five-member state fair commission Governor Douglas McKay appointed Robert G. Fowler, Medford; Harold Barnett, Pendleton; Dr. Earl T. Stewart, Roseburg; Sylvester B. Hall, Gresham and Henry Ahern, Turner. The new law transfers the fair from the state agriculture board to the commission.

Unless handicapped by unforeseen events stall ways and means bills will be reported out of this committee on or before April 18. The \$72,000,000 asked by the governor for public welfare has been reduced to between \$63,000,000 and \$64,000,000 by the ways and means committee.

The real omelet unscrambling problem of the legislature is re-apportionment hinging on whether Portland, Multnomah county, shall have more members in the legislature or less.

ANOTHER OREGON FIRST

The Oregon Big House, as the Oregon penitentiary is loosely spoken of by the elite of the best criminal society, is becoming very popular in the restrained classes.

This week there are 1560 sojourners and permanent guests enjoying the cuisine and sang-froid antique walls. The population is gaining at the rate of 300 a year. You can't tell what our bureau of travel and information will exploit next.

Just this week two well-known nomads, who have made extended tours of most of the available pens and gaols, arrived from the Idaho pen. They had nothing printable to say about their late residence in Idaho except that they were not given bon voyage with clothing and expense money as they were when leaving the Oregon Big House several years ago. They rate Oregon's pen Grade-A.

WOULD CUT BUDGET

An economically minded prisoner in the state penitentiary wants to save the state money. He told the parole board the state is now paying his wife \$221 a month support money for herself and ten children. He would like a parole so he could support them, have his freedom and save the state money.

Here is the way it looks to me: We are in the very center of a world conflict—both hot and cold. It may last for years. It might end next year. Nobody knows—but while it lasts we have no course but to arm and prepare for the worst while hoping for the best.

Selective service must be continued. Unless this bill becomes law—or at least the selective service part of it—the draft law will expire the 8th of July. I think we are compelled to continue selective service. But I don't like it and the principal reason I don't like it is because for every young man drafted a hundred or more are left in a state of uncertainty. I think every young man should be treated by his government exactly the same as all other young men are treated. That is the underlying reason why I am willing to vote for the proposed training program as set forth in the pending bill.

If that program goes into operation (probably two years from now) every boy when he reaches a certain age will be required to undergo six months of military training. Thereafter he will become a member of the reserve and subject to call for five and one-half years. Theoretically, at least, after the program is in operation the principle of equality of service will be established. So far as I am concerned, that is better than the present unequal system.

The House will probably dispose of the UMT. Draft bill in about another week. It is undoubtedly the biggest and most controversial bill of this session. After that the appropriations bills and possibly a tax bill will complete the major work of the session.

Political Scientists To Meet at U of O

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene (Special)—Some 75 political scientists from the Pacific Northwest and California will gather here April 21 and 22 for the annual meeting of the Pacific Northwest Political Science association. They will discuss questions of state, national and international importance.

Heading an array of distinguished speakers will be Hubertus J. Van Mook, onetime lieutenant governor-general of the Netherlands and now on the faculty of the University of California; Charles E. Martin, for 25 years head of the department of political science at the University of Washington; and Julian Towster, also from the University of California.

SCENT BY MALHEUR

The desks of the thirty senators were decorated this week with smiling, pensive, shocking or crying faces cleverly painted on large blonde onions. Senator Elmo E. Smith brought them as a gift from the Ontario Chamber of Commerce where they were painted by Mrs. E. H. Stansbury. Miss Theima Clegg was the impersario of the bunch of onions.

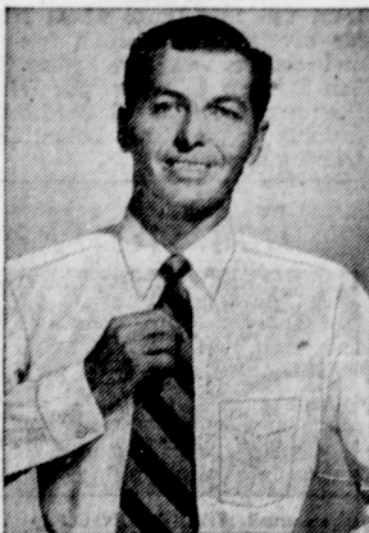
FIRST FOREST FIRE

Oregon's first forest fire for 1951 was reported this week southeast of Fall City in Polk county. The fire spread over approximately 20 acres of fern land and destroyed considerable young Douglas fir.

Persons planning to start land clearing fires were cautioned to use care because of the present fire hazard.

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Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stockdale and three small children are certainly very grateful to the neighbors and friends as well as to the Red Cross and the women of the Church of Christ who so readily responded, with assistance and clothing when the house in which they were living was burned down so quickly last week. The Stockdales have been staying at the Hugh Heyne home since the fire but efforts to find a house have so far been fruitless. Anyone who knows of a place please call 730R5X. They prefer to be in the Latham district so the boy can finish the year's school without changing.

Called here by the sickness and death of Mrs. Jack (Hilda W.) Godard were her daughter (Rachel) Mrs. George Davis and her husband of Eugene and her son John W. Garrette and wife of Portland, her brother Phillip Wyvel of Fort Langley, Wash., and her sister (Louise) Mrs. Bert Pinney of Portland.

A dinner party at the Earl Marcy home Friday evening followed by a trip to Lowell with the Hebron Grange play cast included the following guests: Dana Whitney, Barbara McReynolds, Roger Gamble and Alfred Grubb.

Stella Adams of Cottage Grove, for many years a resident of Latham, was taken to Sacred Heart hospital Sunday afternoon for surgery.

Henry Landers is at home now and is improving tho he will need to wear a cast on his neck for some time.

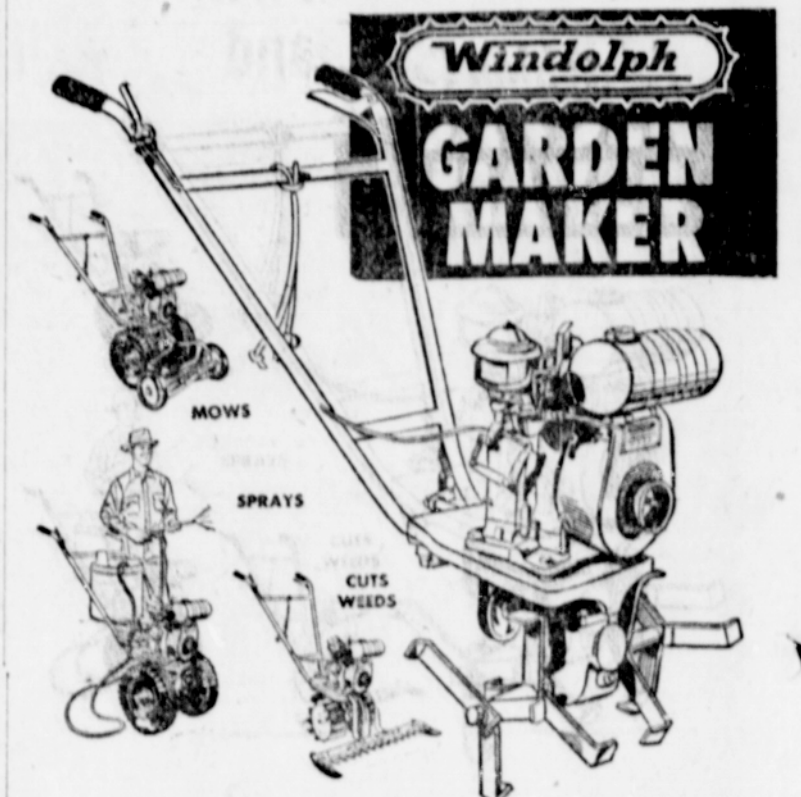
Harry "Sonny" Hayes is home on a few days leave from the navy.

Local Youths Sing With Bible College Quartet

Ever notice how much more it costs to support one bad habit than many good ones?

Many a guy who thinks he is stealing a kiss, fails to realize he is losing his freedom.

Two local youths, Roy Aubrey and Jerry McCormack, will be singing with the quartet from San Jose Bible College which will be at the Gibbs Avenue Church of Christ Sunday, April 15. Roy and Jerry will graduate from the college in June.



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SOCIAL SECURITY AID OFFERED HERE MONDAY

A representative of the Eugene Social Security Field Office will be in Cottage Grove at the city hall council chambers on Monday, April 16, between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and noon to answer questions or assist in filing claims for old-age insurance benefits.

LLOYD RUSSELL VOTED POPULAR STUDENT

Lloyd Russell, formerly of Cottage Grove, was voted the boy with the most magnetic personality at Brookings high school. Russell is president of the freshman class, and active in all sports and school functions. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Russell, formerly of Cottage Grove.



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