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Huge Cost of Federal Paper Work

If yours is an average American family it costs you the neat sum of \$100 a year just to pay your share of the paper work done by the federal government.

That is one of the startling facts produced in a newly-published Hoover Commission report, which goes into the paper work problem in detail and makes certain recommendations for reorganization and reform.

Everyone who has served in one of the armed forces has had personal experience with the extent and complexity of government record keeping and other paper work. It has been the subject of innumerable jokes and anecdotes. But it's no laughing matter, when considered in the light of its cost in time, effort and money. And, while this is a problem of some magnitude in industry as well, it seems that it has reached its most acute and wasteful form in the huge federal establishment.

As a result of a prior Hoover Commission study, changes were made in methods of handling government records that have saved nearly \$35,000,000 in a single year. But that notable effort has touched upon only a relatively small portion of the government's paper work activity. According to this new report, the government creates and handles some 25,000,000,000 pieces of paper each year, not counting that used in manuals, pamphlets, and the like. This requires the services of more than 750,000 full-time employees. And it costs \$4,000,000,000 a year—which by way of comparison, is about equal to the whole federal budget prior to 22 years ago!

The paper work takes various forms. Some 18,000,000,000 of the sheets are printed or mimeographed. More than 1,000,000,000 are individual letters—and to write these costs \$1,000,000,000 or a dollar each. The government has hundreds of millions of dollars invested in office equipment, and office space for the paperwork employees costs \$180,000,000 annually. There are more than 24,000,000 cubic feet of federal agency records—which, the report observes, are enough to fill seven buildings the size of the gigantic Pentagon.

The increase in paper work came, of course, with the enormous growth of the government in recent years. And, in some instances at least, the paper work grew far faster. In 1912 writing of individual letters per government employee totaled 55; now it totals about 522 a year. In addition to the cost in money, the volume of paper work imposed upon top federal employees interferes with their basic responsibilities. The report finds that this paper work, along with various laws and regulations, makes these positions far more difficult than those of the top officers of large corporations.

At the end the report makes a number of specific suggestions for cutting down on the paper work and effecting other allied reforms. It estimates that savings could be made as follows: in correspondence, \$75,000,000; in forms, \$50,000,000; in reports \$50,000,000; in record keeping, \$50,000,000; in mail handling, \$30,000,000. That adds up to \$255,000,000, which could be saved the taxpayers in this one field of government activity alone. The report urges that early action be taken.

Why Pick on Telephone Service Users?

A 5% sales tax levied against telephone bills rendered in Oregon would be a gross discrimination against one type of necessary service of the highest usefulness. A non-discriminatory general sales tax of one half of 1% would raise far more revenue and would be far more fair.

Surely there are non-necessities upon which a high-rate sales tax could be levied if any high-rate sales tax must be imposed.

Of all the excise taxes levied by the federal government, a Gallup Poll showed the tax on telephone bills was the most unpopular, both with women and with men. American Institute of Public Opinion showed the tax on Baby Oil and Baby Powder to be the most unpopular, even more unpopular with men than with women, rating 24 average with both. Next to that came the telephone tax, rating 22 average in unpopularity, with tax on jewelry rating 3 and tax on furs rating only 1.

There are some 400,000 subscribers and some 500,000 telephones in Oregon. The proposed tax would amount to 60 cents a month per average subscriber and 50 cents a month per average telephone. There would seem little or no excuse for singling out this necessity for a sales tax while ignoring all other necessities and all luxuries except cigarettes, which it is proposed to tax and which tax undoubtedly would be referred by petition.—Oregon Voter.

Country Editors in the News

Two editors of country papers have taken the spotlight away from the larger papers in the past few weeks. A Texas editor helped uncover the biggest land scandal in the state when he saw the land promoters break a general rule of the south by inviting colored people to a picnic, using the names of these people to apply for veterans' loans. The scandal caused the resignation of the land commission and now the state is suing for the returns of millions of dollars.

Less fortunate was the Wisconsin editor, LeRoy Gore of the Sank Prairie Star, who saw his paper begin to fail after he led an unsuccessful "Joe Must Go," campaign, directed against Sen. Joe McCarthy, after McCarthy became abusive of the present administration. Gore was fined \$4,200 when McCarthy backers dug up an archaic law. After this Gore's subscription list began to go down and he lost 25 percent of his advertising. Gore saw he was deserted by his friends and did the only thing to do under the circumstances—sell out.

Whatever else may be said of Gore, he had the intestinal fortitude to stand up and be counted for what he thought was right. Even though McCarthy won an apparent victory, his cause was hurt and the incident helped to sink him in further obscurity.

March came in like a lion, all right. Now if it will only continue to follow the pattern of the proverb and go out like a lamb, everybody will be happy.

The great and consistent increase in individual savings by the people of the United States indicates that we still are a pretty rugged lot 'cause it certainly is a much tougher job to save money nowadays than when Grandpa was a boy.

Letter From Washington

Late Session of Congress Anticipated

By Congressman Harris Ellsworth

The signs as I see them point to a long session of Congress this year. My guess right now is that adjournment will not come before mid-August—possibly later. The basis of my opinion is that the regular annual appropriations bills are very slow in coming to the House floor for passage. Congress cannot adjourn until all of the money bills have been acted upon. If they come up from committee late Congress will stay in session late into the summer.

Last year we had cleared the first appropriations bill through the House by the middle of February and the remainder of them came along after that rather rapidly. Thus far this year no bill has been completed. One of the larger sub-committees, the one handling appropriations for public works, has not actually gone into action.

One thing that has undoubtedly slowed down the operation of the big committee is that its chairman, Clarence Cannon of Missouri, has put through a reorganization of the committee. He has shifted the work of the several subcommittees around so that most members will be handling appropriations for agencies and departments with which they are not familiar.

But just to show how ideas differ around here—I was just walking across from the capitol to the House office building with a radio news reporter who volunteered the information to me that he had heard over on the Senate side that early adjournment—perhaps mid-July was being talked. Can you beat it?

It is anticipated that the bill to extend the Reciprocal trade agreements act will be cleared by both Houses of Congress and sent to the President within

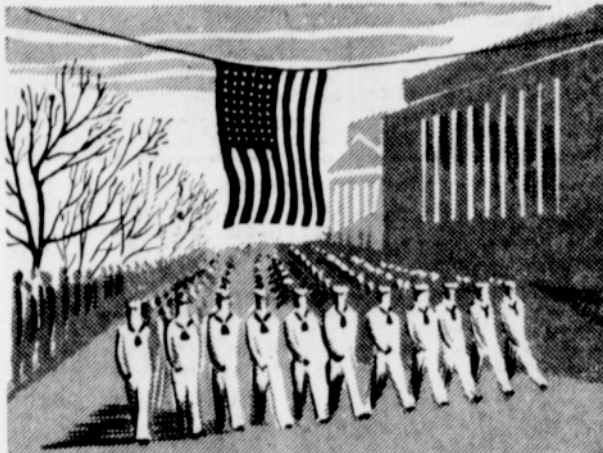
a few days. As this is written the Senate is debating the bill. As has been reported, the bill was passed by the House on February 18. It was considered on the floor of the House under what is called a "closed" rule. That meant no amendments could be considered. We just had to vote for the bill as it was brought from the ways and means committee—or against it.

A motion to recommit the bill with an amendment—which simply meant that one amendment would be included—failed by five votes. I voted for the amendment and then for the bill. I think the amendment which would have given some protection to our farmers and some small manufacturers should have been adopted. I hope the amendment is put in by the Senate. I was not willing to vote against the entire bill just because we could not get the amendment we wanted, so I reluctantly voted for it.

As a matter of fact, the troubles which have developed from the reciprocal trade plan of making tariffs are not due to the law or to the principle of making tariffs in that way. Our troubles have come from the way in which the law has been administered. Presidential advisers on the subject of tariffs have tended to think too much about the rest of the world and not enough about the struggling units in our own economy. In other words they have been too engrossed with the vision of the forest to be able to see the trees, and if I may make a pun or something—they have sometimes been unable to see our Oregon cherry and filbert trees! I hope that the heated debate and the close vote in the House on the amendment will serve to improve the vision of the experts.

Flag Etiquette

(Editor's note: This is one of a series of pictures illustrating flag etiquette, furnished by the Navy Recruiting Office in Eugene, and is presented in the Sentinel each week until Armed Forces Day, May 21.)



"When the flag is displayed otherwise than by being flown from a staff, it should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out, or so suspended that it folds flat as free as though the flag were staffed. When the flag is displayed over the middle of the street, it should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street."

TACHEN ISLANDS (FHTC)
 —Ronald D. Woods, fireman, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond R. Woods of Route 1, Cottage Grove, was aboard the destroyer USS Harry E. Hubbard when the ship took part in the Tachen evacuation.

The Hubbard was a screening unit of fast carrier Task Force 77 which provided air coverage for

the evacuation forces.

The destroyer is scheduled to return to her home port of Long Beach, Calif., on March 8 completing a seven month tour of duty in the Far East.

Most of the time was spent on the Formosa patrol, refueling and replenishing at sea.

Liberty visits were made at Hong Kong, various ports in Japan, Midway and Pearl Harbor.

ENLISTS IN NAVY

Kenneth Wayne Nowak 17, lives with parents Mr. and Mrs. Leo Nowak of Box 126A Lorne Route, Cottage Grove and attended Cottage Grove High. He enlisted in the Navy March 8, 1955, through the local Navy Recruiting Station in the Post Office Building in Eugene.

'Innocent' Drivers Draw Criticism

"Innocent" drivers trapped into accidents or near misses by the unexpected actions of other drivers drew some criticism from state safety officials Friday.

While their own cars may be under control, they still get into trouble by failing to apply the principles of defensive driving. Secretary of State Earl T. Newberry pointed out.

What is defensive driving? It's something every really competent driver practices instinctively. Newberry contended. It's defending yourself in traffic from other drivers who may not be driving sensibly.

It's expecting the unexpected, it's assuming a car just around the next curve or over the crest of the next hill will be in your lane. It's assuming the driver who signalled to turn right may turn left.

Drivers in this frame of mind are most likely to have records showing years of accident-free operation, studies indicate. Those who do not use defensive driving principles, safety men suggest, are not facing up to the facts of modern traffic.

And I Quote

"If you think a girl isn't explosive, just drop one!"—Mike Connolly.

"I like Hollywood except for two things—the smug and the smog."—Bill Lawrence.

"Two kinds of families are likely to have a house full of antique furniture: the kind with money, and the kind with kids."—Marshall (Ky.) Courier.

"The danger is that the monopolistic power of labor unions will be used to push labor costs to an unworkable level."—NAM President Henry G. Riter, 3rd.

"A gentleman is one who helps a woman across the street even if she doesn't need help."

—Franklin J. Jones.

A leader is best
 When people barely know that he exists.
 —Wittier Bynner

July West Point Entrants Taking Fitness Exams

FORT LEWIS—Candidates for admission to the United States Military Academy from the four northwest states are currently undergoing mental and physical tests at Fort Lewis, Washington, to determine their qualifications for admission with the class scheduled to enter the Academy in July 1955.

Identical examinations are being held simultaneously at approximately 25 other Army and Air Force installations in the United States and overseas. The northwest examinations are being conducted by a Board of Officers, of which Colonel John S. Harnett, of Snohomish, Wash., is president.

Permission to take the examination is limited to duly appointed candidates, who have been nominated from one of the sources provided by law and to whom letter of appointment have been issued by the Department of the Army, Washington, D. S. Colonel Harnett emphasizes that the local examining board does not have authority to issue appointments or to process applications for appointment.

750 Cadets Each Year

The total authorized strength of the Corps of Cadets and all sources of appointment and admission are specified by law. About 750 new cadets are admitted each year.

The largest quota, representing about 85% of the total, is allotted to the various States and Congressional Districts, for which nominations are made by Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Each Senatorial seat and each Congressional District may be represented at the Military Academy by no more than four cadets at any one time and new cadets may be admitted only as vacancies occur.

Applicants seeking a Congressional appointment should apply directly to their Senators or Representative. Colonel Harnett advises that this be done a year in advance of the intended date of admission to West Point.

One Class Each Year

Only one class is admitted each year, the date of admission being the first week day in July. Smaller quotas, all of which are competitive, are provided by law for enlisted men of the Army and Air Force (regular and reserve components), sons of deceased veterans whose death resulted from war service, disabilities during World Wars I or II, and for the sons of enlisted men or officers who are now, or who were at time of death, members of the Regular Army or the regular components of the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard.

Colonel Harnett states that, although the standards are necessarily high, any healthy, normally intelligent young American graduating from high school with good grades should be able to pass the required tests.

The examination is now in progress consist of tests in mathematics, English, United States History and mental aptitude; a series of physical aptitude tests to measure coordination and development; and a very thorough medical examination.

College Credits Aid

College credits are sufficient in some cases to exempt candidates from certain portions of the mental examination, but all must pass the West Point aptitude, physical aptitude, and medical examination.

All young men interested in a military career based on the college training offered at West Point are urged by Colonel Harnett to address a letter or postcard to The Adjutant General, Washington, D. C., or to The Registrar, U. S. Military Academy, West Point, New York requesting a copy of the West Point Catalogue.

This publication, which is free, furnishes detailed information on all of the sources of appointment, all of the mental and physical aptitude examinations, samples of the various mental examinations, an outline of the course of studies, and general information and history of the world's foremost military college.

Sudie Nation

Sudie Nation, 80, Cottage Grove, died March 10, at the local hospital. She was born February 6, 1875, in Belton, Mo. and came to Cottage Grove in 1936 from Coda, Wyo. She was married to James W. Long on December 25, 1892, in Raymore, Mo. He and two sons preceded her in death. On July 10, 1907, she was married to Will K. Nation. She was a member of the Assembly of God. Survivors are three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at Mills Mortuary Saturday, March 12, with the Rev. E. W. White officiating. Interment was in the local cemetery.

The reformer must be a hero at all points, and he must have conquered himself before he can conquer others.—Mary Baker Eddy

No man is free who cannot command himself.—Pythagoras

My Neighbors

By BILL PAULSON

"Hello, Mr. Rooter?... How about a guaranteed annual rainfall for us farmers?"



INCOME TAX FACTS No. 7—Medical Expenses and Other Deductions

(This is one of a series of articles on income tax changes. The articles are based on information provided by the American Institute of Accountants and the Oregon Society of Certified Public Accountants.)

Taxpayers with heavy medical expenses in 1954 get a big break under the new tax law.

In the first place, certain sick benefits are not even counted as income. This was true before in the case of insured plans, but now applies to benefits from the uninsured employer as well. Here's what you can receive free of tax from your employer or his insurance company:

1. Payment for medical expenses.
2. Payment for permanent injury (not based on time absent from work).
3. Damages for injury or sickness.
4. Payments under Workmen's Compensation acts.
5. Payment up to \$100 a week for loss of wages while you are absent due to injury or sickness, except that the first week's pay is taxable unless you are absent due to an injury or are hospitalized for at least one day.

Medical and Dental Deductions

Using the long form and itemizing your deductions you can now deduct more than you could last year. First you add up your expenses for medicine and subtract 1% of your adjusted gross income. Add the remainder to your other medical and dental expenses, including doctor, dentist and hospital bills you have paid, transportation (but not living expenses) for medical treatment away from home, and medical insurance premiums.

From this total you must subtract any benefits received from your medical insurance and, unless you are 65 or over, 3% (instead of the old 5%) of your adjusted gross income. This will give you the amount of your medical and dental deduction. It cannot be any more, however, than the maximum based on your exemptions.

This maximum has been raised to \$2,500 per exemption (except those for old age and blindness) up to \$5,000 for a single person and up to \$10,000 for a head of household or a joint return.

Charity Made Easier

There is still a 20% limit on charitable contributions in general, but you can take a deduction for

an additional 10% of your income contributed to religious organizations, schools and hospitals. Within the 20% limit you can now include gifts to non-profit cemeteries, as well as any "religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational" organization.

Taxes and Interest Paid

In general you can deduct taxes you have paid for yourself or a member of your household, except to the federal government. You can not deduct "hidden" sales taxes (not separately stated to the customer), or fees for hunting licenses, dog licenses, water supply or auto inspection.

Fire and Storm Damage

Another type of deduction is the casualty loss. If your home, car, or other property was damaged by fire, storm, flood, lightning, explosion or freezing—or if any of your property was stolen—your loss not covered by insurance is deductible. See the official instructions for the method of calculating your loss.

Additional Information

Be sure to read the official instructions. You can also get help from the Internal Revenue Service, which urges you to consult only qualified advisers.

Next article: New Savings for Investors, Farmers and Businessmen.

LEGAL NOTICES

CALL FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the City Council, City Hall, Cottage Grove, Oregon, until 8 o'clock p.m. April 4, 1955, for the construction of a building, on city property, Lot 3, Block 3, Long and Landess Addition, Cottage Grove, Oregon. Building will be used for the purpose of housing city equipment.

Plans and specifications are on file with the City Recorder, City Hall, and copies thereof may be obtained from the City Recorder's office.

No proposal will be considered unless accompanied by a check payable to the City Council of Cottage Grove, certified to by a responsible bank, or in lieu thereof, a surety bond for an amount equal to ten per cent of the aggregate proposed.

The successful bidder shall enter into a contract with the City of Cottage Grove for the work to be done in accordance with the plans and specifications and shall furnish a bond satisfactory to the City Council in the full amount of the Contract. The contractor shall state the amount of time required from the time of signing the Contract to the date of completion of the work.

The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

/s/ J. M. Edwards
 City Recorder
 31-2tc-32

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the undersigned Treasurer of the City of Cottage Grove, Lane County, Oregon, will on the 31st day of March, 1955, at the hour of 10 o'clock a.m. at the West front door of the City Hall in Cottage Grove, Oregon, sell at public auction for cash in hand the following described real property:

Lot 1, Block 16, Long and Landess Addition to Cottage Grove, Lane County, Oregon.

Said property is known as 305 South Sixth Street, Cottage Grove, Oregon, frontage on South Sixth Street 66-2/3 feet; frontage on Jefferson Avenue 95.0 feet.

This sale is made pursuant to authorization of the Common Council of the City of Cottage Grove and is subject to approval of said Council. The Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Earnest money equal to 10 per cent of amount bid must be paid to the undersigned pending completion of sale. The City of Cottage Grove will convey to purchaser whose bid is accepted by Warranty Deed, free from encumbrances, except easements of record, if any there be, and will furnish Title Insurance. Taxes for year ending June 30, 1955, will be pro rated between city and purchaser as of date of delivery of Deed to purchaser.

/s/ M. Siebert
 City Treasurer
 City of Cottage Grove
 31-2tc-32

You can never overcome the universal material revolution by conceding to it materially; you can only overcome it by stressing the moral, intellectual, and spiritual side of your existence.

—Dr. Charles Malik

NOW SHOWING

Pontiac "870" 4 Door Station Wagon

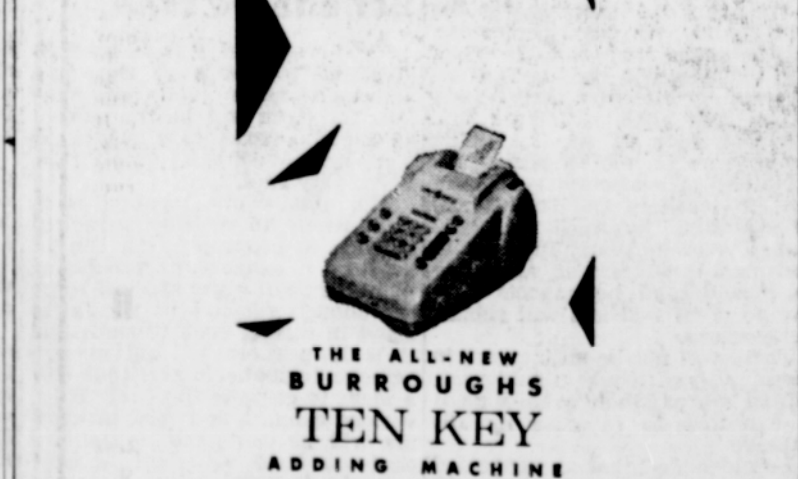
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With the Famous Pontiac
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