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Learning the Hard Way

We have heard considerable about three GI's who decided to stay in Red China following the Korean war but changed their minds after living under communism. They had to be convinced the hard way that dictatorships offer no primrose path to happiness.

Whatever their crimes or failures, they are back in the United States, a country that cherishes freedom, to take such punishment as may be meted out to them, in preference to remaining behind the iron curtain. Their decision may open the eyes of some Americans who have been sympathetic to government ownership of business, and to the relentless extension of the size, power and authority of government in general.

The Ontario, Oregon, Argus-Observer, recently said that if socialism is right in one field of enterprise, it is right in all. "The end result of this," it went on, "would be out-right communism, which nearly all Americans oppose in theory but which many seem eager to embrace a step at a time."

No nation can long remain half socialist and half free. A choice must be made.

No Place for Monopoly

The production of atomic weapons is a job for the government. But when it comes to putting the atom to work to serve the arts of peace, private enterprise must enter the picture.

Right now private enterprise is building the first commercial scale atomic-electric plant. Proposals for four other plants have been presented by private enterprise to the Atomic Energy Commission. These are pioneering steps, and initially the power will probably be expensive to make. But it will be sold at regular rates. The electric industry expects to learn from such experiments how to build more economical and efficient atomic-electric projects for the future.

There are those who want a government monopoly of the atom—in electric power production and everything else. That attitude is not shared by the men in top policy-making governmental positions. Actually, the surest way to prevent progress is to have a monopoly, governmental or otherwise, of anything. The more minds and more resources we can devote to any problem, the sooner it will be solved. The element of competition comes into this too—monopolists can afford to take things easy. Men who work under competitive conditions can't.

No one knows how soon atomic power will be practical on a really big scale. But private enterprise can be counted on to bring it about in the shortest possible time.—Industrial News Review.

Letter From Washington

By Congressman Harris Ellsworth

Dear Friend: Another session of Congress has ended. I believe you might like to have a report in the nature of a summary of what has happened in Washington, D. C., during the first half of the 84th Congress and the third quarter of the presidential term of our able and popular President Eisenhower.

Since the government team in Washington now, as the result of the elections last year, is insular (Republican Administration with a Democrat Congress), there has been considerable "pulling and hauling" and forward progress has not been noteworthy—particularly in the Congressional branch. Any administration is severely handicapped if the opposition party has control of the Congress.

In the area of responsibility of the executive branch of the government headed by President Eisenhower an impressive record of accomplishments for the good of the country has been made. Here is a partial list:

NO SHOOTING WAR—peace throughout the world for the first time in nearly a generation.

COLD WAR EASED—firmness and cordiality of President Eisenhower and his diplomats has resulted in changed attitude and less tension.

INFLATION ENDED—the value of the dollar has remained almost stable for more than two years. Cost of living has been stabilized.

WAGES AND EMPLOYMENT AT RECORD HIGH—in 64,000,000 people were employed. Unemployment near record low and declining. A state of general prosperity exists. Wages at all time high.

COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN GOVERNMENT WIPED OUT—the question of subversives and security risks in government has ceased to exist. Confidence in government has been restored.

COLLECTIVE SECURITY STRENGTHENED—South Korea, Republic of China, Austrian treaties; Middle East, Latin American agreements; West German independence and a NATO member; Trieste, Suez and Iranian problems solved with U. S. assistance.

The Administration asked the 84th Congress to enact bold new programs for schools, highway expansion, housing, health re-insurance, higher minimum wage, military reserve program. Congress enacted some portions of the President's program which were extensions or continuance of laws sponsored by previous administrations. Those included extension of re-employment trade, increase in minimum wage, foreign aid, selective service and a start was made on broadening the social security coverage and benefits.

But the Eisenhower proposals looking forward to meeting the needs of our rapidly increasing population and our expanding economy did not come through the political opposition cross-currents to enactment during this session. Among them were the following:

AID TO SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION—reported at end of session by House Committee but not in form suggested or desired by the Administration.

SOCIAL SECURITY ACT IMPROVEMENTS—such a bill passed by House but put to sleep in the Senate. House bill not in accord with the President's program but carrying some of his recommendations.

DYNAMIC LONG RANGE HIGHWAY PROGRAM—mauled, mangled and disfigured by Democrat majority in committee. Rejected by more than two to one vote by a disgusted House of Representatives.

of Food Fair, a huge Eastern grocery chain which grosses over \$400,000,000 annually. When he knew I came from Oregon, this was the way his conversation went: "My what a grand place that must be for food products. We buy tons of Paulus fruits and vegetables from Salem every year—no string beans anywhere like those from around Salem. The jams put up by Max Lehmann are out of this world. We regard peas from Milton (Milton-Freewater) as absolutely tops—a flavor and richness all their own. And your Bumble Bee turn is in a class by itself. It's white and sweet, none of that fishy taste like inferior brands. Your state of Oregon has a fine reputation for its agriculture and fisheries. I tell you!"

Farm Income Down
 In a recent issue, the Wall Street Journal tells its readers that farm and factory prices have reached the widest spread since the end of World War II. This eminent business paper also points out that the prospects are for continued widening of this spread.

Using the 1947 to 1949 period as 100, the Bureau of Labor Statistics places the farm price index at 89.8 as of July, while the price index for all commodities other than farm was 113.7. Farm prices have gone down 10.2 points while non-farm prices have risen 13.7 points.

Several weeks ago I strongly challenged a Department of Agriculture report which urged defeat of legislation for a "domestic parity" system for the

I am one of the sponsors of this legislation, which has been quietly buried long ago the "full parity" promises. I have had the pleasure of working with officials called flexible supports has left the American farmer in a lurch.

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In the diner, I met Mr. Arthur Rosenberg, head er high and dry through declining agricultural prices.

WASHINGTON AND "SMALL BUSINESS"

By C. WILSON HARDER

While in the session of Congress just ended the multi-billion dollar new highway program failed of passage, and as a result, many metropolitan papers are making a great hue and cry over this fact, the debate on the matter presented some interesting sidelights.

First of all, there was the question of raising money. Major Oil was all for it. Big Cement was all for passage of such a measure, and so were other big operations, except they didn't feel they should be required to pay for any of the cost. Some Washington observers commented that these people performed a gymnastic feat, i.e. they could loudly clap their hands applauding the idea while still keeping their hands in their pockets.

For example, one of the sources of revenue proposed was to impose new taxes on the small firms who recap tires and on garages and service stations that sell recapped tires, about only segment of vast rubber industry left open to small operator.

One of the proposals was to place a tax on camelback, which is the trade name for rubber used in recapping tires, of 15 cents per pound.

Of course, customers of tire recappers would pay for tax in higher prices.

But the bill would have provided that the recapper would have to pay this tax on the raw material as he bought it. Thus, 15% of his working capital would immediately be tied up in a fund to pay taxes as well as 15% of the inventory capital of all retailers handling recapped tires.

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Even the largest corporations would be hard hit to have their working capital reduced over night by being forced to tie up 15% of it in a tax fund.

This 15% would be in addition to other funds which the man must maintain to pay income taxes, social security, sales and excise taxes.

In other words, assume that a small tire recapper has an inventory of \$10,000 worth of raw material. To maintain that inventory at that level under the tax proposed to finance new highways, he would have had to beg or borrow immediately another \$1,500. And even though he would probably be forced to pay interest on the amount he borrowed, he would receive no interest from the government to offset this expense.

Thus, the debate again bore out the truth of the matter. That truth is this. No matter what grandiose schemes are arrived at, it is eventually the small businessman who must bear the burden of them.

And while it is perhaps fine for government to have meetings with so-called "captains of industry" to hatch out grand deeds of daring, it would be much sounder to first discuss it with men who must pay bills.

It is to be taken as a certainty that the nation needs better roads. In fact ever since the war it has needed them much more than the U. S. needed a multi-billion dollars foreign give away program. And in the months to come, there will be a lot of propaganda for rushing into a huge highway building program. But it can also be taken as a certainty that those who do the most drum beating are those who will bear the least part of the financial burden.

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Daniel Dugan

Daniel Dugan, 93, a 50-year resident of the Cottage Grove community, passed away at his home in Walden Friday, September 2, 1955.

He was born in Copley, Penn., June 22, 1862. While a young boy he moved to Iowa and was married there in 1882 to Mary Collum who preceded him in death on December 10, 1952. He came to Oregon in 1905.

He was a member of the Catholic Church.

He is survived by three sons and three daughters: Lee, John, Arthur, Mrs. Frances Patten, all of Cottage Grove, and Mildred Dugan and Mrs. Mae Noble of Eugene; 12 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

The Rosary was said at the Smith Funeral Chapel Monday, September 5, at 7:30 p.m. Funeral services were at the Lady of Perpetual Help church at 10 a.m. Tuesday with vault interment in Cottage Grove IOOF cemetery.

Minnie Chalifoue

Minnie Chalifoue, lifetime Oregon resident, passed away at the Cottage Grove hospital on Friday, September 2, 1955, at the age of 83.

She was born Minnie Longtain, March 7, 1872, at Foul, Oregon, and was married at Oakland, Oregon, on January 1, 1888, to Peter S. Chalifoue who preceded her in death in 1938. They came to Cottage Grove from Portland in 1919.